

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

This morning begins the Great Week of the Christian Year. During Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of the Lord's death and resurrection. With Christians throughout the world, we come together this week to call to mind, and to express in word and action, the centre of the Easter mystery: our Lord's Passover from death to life. Christ entered in triumph into the Holy City to complete his work as Messiah: to suffer, to die and to rise to new life. Today we commit ourselves to walk the way of the cross, so that, sharing his sufferings, we may be united with him in his risen life.

Sovereign God,

we thank you for these branches and crosses of palm.

By your blessing may they be for us signs of the victory of your Son.

May we who carry them in his name ever hail him as our Messiah,

and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Palm Gospel

Luke 19.28-40

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 19 beginning at the twenty eighth verse.

Hosanna in the highest.

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!' Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Merciful God, as we enter this holy week and gather at your house of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that, united with Christ and all the faithful, we may one day enter in triumph the city not made with hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory forever. **Amen.**

Hymn Ride On, Ride On In Majesty

Ride on, ride on in majesty;
hark, all the tribes hosanna cry!
O Saviour meek, pursue your road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty,
in lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;
the winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty:
your last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty,
in lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O Christ, your power and reign!

Let us pray

God of all, you gave your only-begotten Son to take the form of a servant, and to be obedient even to death on a cross: give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50.4-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up

together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 31:9-18

Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble: my eye wastes away for grief, my throat also and my inward parts.

For my life wears out in sorrow and my years with sighing: my strength fails me in my affliction, and my bones are consumed.

I am become the scorn of all my enemies: and my neighbours wag their heads in derision.

I am a thing of horror to my friends: and those that see me in the street shrink from me.

I am forgotten like a dead man out of mind: I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the whispering of many: and fear is on every side;

While they plot together against me: and scheme to take away my life.

But in you, Lord, have I put my trust: I have said ‘You are my God.’

All my days are in your hand: O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors.

Make your face to shine upon your servant: and save me for your mercy’s sake.

New Testament Reading

Philippians 2.5–11

A Reading from Paul’s letter to the Philippians

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn

Life High the Cross

"Take up your cross," the Saviour said,
"if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still;
the Lord refused not even to die
upon a cross, on Calv'ry's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in His strength,
and calmly ev'ry danger brave:
it guides you to a better home
and leads to vict'ry o'er the grave.

Take up your cross and follow Christ
Nor think till death to lay it down
For only those who bear the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown

The Passion

Luke 23:1-49

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter twenty three beginning at the first verse.

(No response)

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.' Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'You say so.' Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.' But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.' When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.' Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He

released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed."

Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?' Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.' It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

The Sermon

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church

The response to Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way is
let us walk with you to Jerusalem.

The prayers are offered

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you
in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Hymn All Glory Praise and Honour

*All glory, praise, and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.
All glory, praise...

The company of angels
is praising you on high;
and we with all creation
exultant make reply.
All glory, praise...

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.
All glory, praise...

To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.
All glory, praise...

Their praises you accepted
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good take pleasure
Our good and gracious King!
All glory, praise...

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
He offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
The tree of defeat became the tree of victory;
where life was lost, there life has been restored.
Therefore with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,

‘Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, **For we all share in the one bread.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The gifts of God for the people of God
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in
remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

AFTER COMMUNION

God our help and strength, through these holy mysteries confirm our faith,
that by the death and resurrection of your Son we may walk in the way of
salvation.

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

**Eternal God, head of our parish and mission,
give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions
and power to our witness.
As we come before you in gratitude and humility,
help us to work together to serve you and each other**

**for the glory of your kingdom, for the people of our Parish
and for the good of our community;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
That you may find in him crucified a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sin forgiven.
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Hymn Christ Jesus, On Sunday, You Rode Into Town

Christ Jesus, on Sunday, you rode into town;
The crowds laid their coats and some palms on the ground.
They made you a welcome and called you their king,
But they did not know of the reign you would bring.
Christ Jesus, on Monday, you went up to pray;
The sellers were filling the Temple that day.
But who could be reverent? That courtyard was loud;
You overturned tables, dispersing the crowd.

Christ Jesus, on Thursday, you readied a place;
You hosted a meal and you offered the grace.
You told your disciples, "Now eat of this bread,"
"Now drink of the cup of salvation," you said.

With basin and towel, with washing of feet,
You showed us where love and humility meet.
You loved till your love led to suffering and loss;
You knelt down to serve us, then hung on a cross.

On Friday, you died, and the next day was bleak.
O Christ, we remember your whole Holy Week.
We can't avoid suffering, or turn from what's true,
For out of your death, we find new life in you.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.