



St. Thomas' Cardiff & All Saints Boolaroo

PALM SUNDAY

5TH APRIL 2020

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

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.

The Palm Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 21 beginning at the first verse.
Hosanna in the highest.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethpage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

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, 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.**

CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, we confess to you our fears, our worries, and our anxieties. You have given us your perfect love which casts out all fear and your peace which transcends all understanding, but even still we feel dislodged, displaced, untethered, and uncertain during these times.
We believe, Lord; help our unbelief.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

READINGS

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths 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.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2.5-11

A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!
 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 For the word of the Lord.

The Passion Gospel

Matthew 27:11-54

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus said, ‘You say so.’ But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, ‘Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?’ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, ‘Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, ‘Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.’ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release for you?’ And they said, ‘Barabbas.’ Pilate said to them, ‘Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ All of them said, ‘Let him be crucified!’ Then he asked, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Let him be crucified!’ So when Pilate saw that he could

do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son." ' The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Sermon [Palm Sunday Address](#)

Let us affirm the faith of the Church

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

For he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Hebrew 13:5-6

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Lord hear our prayer

Jesus Christ, healer of all, heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care., stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Lord hear our prayer

Jesus Christ, healer of all Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Lord hear our prayer

Jesus Healer of all, heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Lord hear our prayer

Loving God, be with the leaders of all nations especially our prime minister Scott Morrison. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Lord hear our prayer

Almighty God, as we approach Holy Week hearing again, in its entirety, the story of Christ's passion, may it help us to truly understand the sacrifice he made for us as we reflect on some aspects of his passion. Despite being unable to gather in our churches we give thanks for all those who are putting together and posting digital worship, enabling us to be together in spirit as we relive the Easter story, a story which fills us with hope and confidence that there will be an end to the chaos of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Lord hear our prayer

As our Saviour Christ 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 forever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

May the Lord Jesus Christ be with us to protect us. May he go before us to guide us, and stand behind us to give us strength. May he look upon us, to keep us, and bless us. Amen

THE EVENTS OF HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is a celebration of the way in which Jesus rode a donkey triumphantly into Jerusalem where he was greeted warmly by the crowd. In the Western Church the procession is reportedly adopted first in Spain, possibly in the fifth century. And it had not been before the twelfth century when the procession was held in Rome. This is why we begin our Palm Sunday celebrations with a procession in the church carrying palm branches and palm crosses.

Holy Monday & Tuesday

Monday of Holy Week is not a major feast. The cleansing of the temple in the Holy City of Jerusalem is thought to have taken place on this Monday. This was when Jesus overturned the tables of the money-changers, saying to them: "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves" (Matthew 21:13 NLT). The Tuesday of Holy Week is the day when the famous incident between Jesus and Pharisees is thought to have taken place. And this was when the religious authorities tried to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested (Matthew 22:15).

Spy Wednesday

On the Wednesday the tempo of the Holy Week increases. This is the day widely known as "Spy Wednesday"; for it's the day when Judas Iscariot, a disciple turned betrayer, agreed to show the chief priests where they could easily capture Jesus.

Maundy Thursday

The Thursday of the Holy Week is associated with the Last Supper. The day is known as Maundy Thursday, or, Holy Thursday. It is the day before the crucifixion. On this day Jesus had his supper with his disciples, at which he said, "Do this in memory of me," meaning to say, perpetuate my abiding presence in the world until I come on the last day by coming together as often as possible in my name to celebrate the Eucharist.

Good Friday

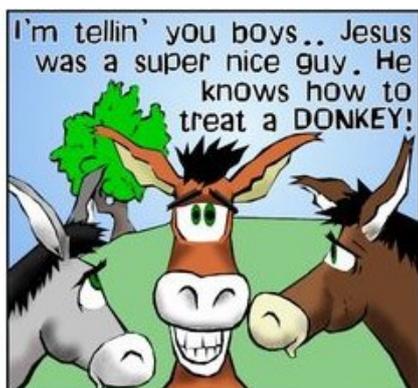
The Friday of the week is Good Friday. This is the day on which Jesus was crucified outside the walls of Jerusalem, at the top of Calvary hill. But by his death Jesus proved that love sacrifices all things to bless the things it loves, and that one who undergoes the worst for the sake of love is happier than those who never love at all.

Easter Eve

The day following Good Friday is Holy Saturday. This is usually called Easter Eve in Anglican churches, and is held as a traditional time for baptism services. Presently, this day is primarily a Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, as well as Anglican observance. And the churches observe this with the blessing and lighting of a tall Paschal candle, which is placed at the front of the altar. The whole service is a movement from darkness to light and from death to life.

EASTER DAY - THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER.

Easter Day, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, comes at the end of the six days of Holy Week. The crucifixion and the death of Jesus seemed to assert triumph of evil over good, but the resurrection proclaims emphatically that the ultimate winners are goodness, truth, faithfulness and selfless love. And if we do our best to embrace these qualities, we too will have a share in the glory of our Lord's resurrection.



Still two days after Palm Sunday Darryl the Palm Sunday donkey was bragging to the boys.

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him. "Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and He shows up!"

