

Palm Sunday Service of the Word
Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem
Sunday 5th April 2020

The Greeting

Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion,
meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass.
Ride on in the cause of truth
and for the sake of justice.
Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever;
and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.
You have loved righteousness and hated evil.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

All Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All and also with you.

Reflection music – *Ride on, ride on in Majesty*
(written by Daniel King Smith)

Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

**Hold your Cross whilst saying this prayer:
(perhaps one that you have made?)**

*Joe will hold up the basket of palm crosses to be handed out when we
worship together in church for the first time.*

All God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah
to suffer and to die;
let this Cross be for us a sign of his victory
and grant that we who bear them in his name
may ever hail him as our King,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life.
Through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession

Christ himself carried up our sins in his body to the tree,
so that, free from sins,
we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.

1 Peter 2.24

Let us therefore confess our sins...

We ask for your mercy and your help.
When we take our ease
rather than watch with you:
Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

When we bestow a kiss of peace
yet nurse enmity in our hearts:
Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

When we strike at those who hurt us
rather than stretch out our hands to bless:
Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

When we deny that we know you
for fear of the world and its scorn:
Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Reading – Philippians 2.5-11

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray,

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord...

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord...

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for
justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord...

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord...

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow,
feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord...

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord...

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
hear all our prayers,
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

All As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Reflection

The Palm Gospel – Matthew 21.1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Procession

During the procession hold your crosses, ‘process’ around your house or follow Rev Joe as he walks around.

You might like to sing the popular hymn ‘Lift High the Cross’:

(Refrain)

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where the Master trod,
o’er death victorious, Christ the Son of God.

(Refrain)

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in joyful praise combine.

(Refrain)

Each new disciple of the Crucified
is called to bear the seal of him who died.

(Refrain)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised draw us unto thee.

(Refrain)

So let the world proclaim with one accord,
the praise of our ever-loving Lord.

(Refrain)

Collect

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.
All **True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.
Amen.**

Blessing & Dismissal

May the Father,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life.
All **Amen.**

May Christ,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.
All **Amen.**

May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ
that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace.
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**