

# **Palm Sunday Service of Prayer and Praise**

## ***Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem***

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

#### **The Greeting**

We raise our voices and wave with joyful hope  
the palms of deliverance of God's people.

**All Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!**

Our hearts are filled with expectation  
as we welcome the coming king.

**All Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

We receive into the crowded streets of our lives  
the one who is Saviour, not only of us, but of all the earth.

**All Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

*Words of welcome are given.*

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.

**Musical meditation – *Crown him with many crowns***

#### **Confession**

We confess that we are not so different  
from those who welcomed Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday  
yet later shouted 'Crucify him!' or remained silent in the face of injustice.  
We have betrayed you too, Lord Jesus  
by our sins both secret and known.  
Yet you died for people like us,  
and you rose on the third day that we might be redeemed.  
For the sake of Jesus Christ do not hold our sins against us.

*We have a time of silent reflection.*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
when our words and actions reflect a reluctance  
to confess you publicly as Lord of our lives:

**All Forgive us.**

When we fear that humbling ourselves  
would be seen by others as weakness,  
some kind of defect in our character:

**All Forgive us.**

When we have betrayed your love for us through our lack of love  
for you, for others, and for ourselves:

**All Forgive us.**

When we find ourselves glossing over the events of your passion and  
death because we look forward to Easter as a time to enjoy.

**All Forgive us.**

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.**

## **Collect**

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

*Silence is kept.*

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.

**All Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading – Psalm 118.1-2,19-end**

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say:  
“His love endures forever.”

- <sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.
- <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD  
through which the righteous may enter.
- <sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.
- <sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;
- <sup>23</sup> the LORD has done this,  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- <sup>24</sup> The LORD has done it this very day;  
let us rejoice today and be glad.
- <sup>25</sup> LORD, save us!  
LORD, grant us success!
- <sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.  
From the house of the LORD we bless you.
- <sup>27</sup> The LORD is God,  
and he has made his light shine on us.
- With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession  
up to the horns of the altar.
- <sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will praise you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
- <sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **The Palm Gospel – Mark 11.1-11**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”’ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Reflection**

### **Worship song – King of Kings**

(performed by Sara, Emer, Rob, Claire and Mike)

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope, without light  
'Til from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake you died

Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings

And the morning that You rose  
All of Heaven held its breath  
'Til that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel, shall not faint  
By His blood and in His name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings  
Praise forever to the King of Kings

## Prayers of Intercession

*Between each petition:*

Lord in your mercy  
**All** hear our prayer.

*At the end the following may be said:*

Merciful Father,  
**All** accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*When we have prayed together, we say the Lord's Prayer:*

**All** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Once we were far off  
but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near  
through the shedding of Christ's blood,  
for he is our peace.

**All** The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

*We offer one another a sign of peace.*

## **Church Notices**

### **Blessing of the Palms**

Bless these parade palms, O God of Celebration.  
May they remind us of the simple joys of living.  
May we remember the excitement that comes with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms, O God of Justice.  
May they remind us that Empire is not a thing of the past.  
May they make us bold and brave to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms, O God of Comfort.  
May they remind us of the road that lies ahead.  
May they encourage us in times of grief and pain.

**All** **We give you thanks for the parade, the protest,  
the processional.  
Guide our steps through this holiest of weeks  
as we cry out together "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"  
Amen.**

## The Procession

*We will listen to that popular Palm Sunday hymn 'Ride on, ride on in majesty' and towards the end we will process outside.*

**All** Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark all the tribes hosanna cry;  
thy humble beast pursues his road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
O Christ, thy 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 wond'ring eyes  
to see th'approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father, on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own appointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, thy pow'r, and reign.

## Prayer for Holy Week

**All** O Lord, you rode on.

You rode over the cloaks and under the branches,  
You rode through the shouts and past the praises,  
Receiving the praise that you deserved,  
but not confusing our praise in your presence for your purpose in coming.

**All** O Lord, you rode on.

You rode towards the controversy and the cost,  
You rode towards the curses and the cross,  
Receiving the stripes you didn't deserve,  
to give us a reward that we couldn't earn.

**All**    **O Lord, you rode on.**

You rode through the tomb and the grave,  
You rode through our time and space,  
Ascending to a throne that will never decay,  
A priesthood that will never pass away,  
A life of love that will always remain,  
And hearing us even now as we pray.

**All**    **O Lord, you rode on.**

We remember the journey you have taken  
as we commit ourselves to walking in the same way.  
Give us the strength, hope, and joy we need  
as we follow.

**All**    In your name we pray,  
**Amen.**

## **Blessing and 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.**

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