

Palm Sunday

Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd April 2023, 10.15am

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the most important week of the Christian year – Holy Week. Today's celebration has two very distinct parts.

Part One is a Commemoration of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem when the Palm Gospel is proclaimed, palms are blessed and a joyous procession follows with hosannas ringing in our ears. Back in church, the collect is the hinge of our worship as we move into the Liturgy of the Word.

Part Two begins with the Bible readings which culminate in the proclamation of the Passion Gospel – please be ready to participate as the crowd. Our response to the Lord's passion leads us to the altar where with bread and wine 'we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again'.

The two key words are, 'Hosanna', which then gives way to, 'Crucify'. We leave our worship prepared to follow our Lord through the Three Great Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) before Easter Day. Yes, it is going to be a busy week, but surely it is but a small sign of our love for Him who loved us even unto death, that we follow Him faithfully through these great days.

Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem

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.

We greet one another and words of welcome are given.

Dear sisters and brothers 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 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.

We hold up palms while this prayer is said:

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;
let these palms be for us signs 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;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Palm Gospel – Matthew 21.1-12

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

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 fulfil 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 Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Procession

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

All Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

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

All Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

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!

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

We process into church waving our palms.

Meditation – *Crown him with many crowns*

Hymn – *All glory, laud and honour (no. 14)*

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

**Thou art the king of Israel,
thou David’s royal Son,
who in the Lord’s name comest,
The King and blessed One.**

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

**The company of angels
are praising thee on High,
and mortals, joined with all things
created, make reply.**

All glory, laud and honour...

**The people of the Hebrews
with palms before Thee went:
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.**

All glory, laud and honour...

**To thee, before thy passion,
they sang their hymns of praise:
to thee now high exalted,
our melody we raise.**

All glory, laud and honour...

**Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.**

All glory, laud and honour...

The Collect

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

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 50.4-9a

(page xxx of our pew bibles)

A reading from the book of 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn – *Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle (no.602)*

**All Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,
sing the last the dread affray;
o'er the Cross, the victor's trophy,
sound the high triumphal lay;
how, the pains of death enduring,
earth's Redeemer won the day.**

**When at length th'appointed fullness
of the sacred time was come,
he was sent, the world's creator,
from the Father's heav'nly home,
and was found in human fashion,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.**

**Now the thirty years are ended
which on earth he willed to see,
willingly he meets his Passion,
born to set his people free;
on the cross the Lamb is lifted,
there the sacrifice to be.**

**There the nails and spear he suffers,
vinegar and gall and reed;
from his sacred body piercé
blood and water both proceed:
precious flood, which all creation
from the stain of sin hath freed.**

The Passion Reading

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above every name.

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark...

At the end:

This is the Passion of the Lord.

Homily – Jaime Roberts

Prayers of Intercession

We stand with Christ in his suffering.
For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people,
that through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

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.

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

Ephesians 2.13,14

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn – Praise to the Holiest in the height (no.572)

All Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail.

And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

**And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself that the world might live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
for ever praising you and saying:

**All 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

All 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.

Breaking of the Bread

The consecrated bread is broken.

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,

All we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.

Agnus Dei

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy upon us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

The minister and the people receive Communion or a blessing.

The body of Christ, broken for you.

All Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

All Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

All Faithful God,
may we who share this banquet
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our salvation, life and hope,
who reigns as Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Final Hymn – Ride on, ride on in majesty! (no.583)

All Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark all the crowds 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 anointed 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.**

The Blessing

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 peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Thank you for joining us in worship this morning.
If you would like to financially support the work of the
church please click [HERE](#) or contact us about joining the
Parish Giving Scheme.**

Please join us in person or online this Holy Week and Easter:

Maundy Thursday 6th April, 7.30pm

Holy Communion with the Stripping of the Altar and the Watch

Good Friday 7th April 2pm

Waiting by the Foot of the Cross

Good Friday 7th April 3.30pm

Good Friday Wild Church

Holy Saturday 8th April 7.30pm

Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 9th April 10.30am

Parish Family Communion