



## Sunday 5 April 2020

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are Youtube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

*It might help to make a cross before the service starts. Children might want to decorate a cross, or maybe write a message of love on it. Use the cross during this time of worship and hold it high and ask God's blessing on it.*

## The Liturgy of Palm Sunday

Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

*All hold up palms or branches. The leader says*

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.

## The Palm Gospel

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

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, 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.'

*Matthew 21:1-11*

## The Procession

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

Procession hymn **Make way, make way!** (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Hymn 1 Hail thee festival day (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

## The Preparation

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

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. Let us therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**All**    **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**    **Amen.**

There is no Gloria during Lent

### **The Collect for Passion Sunday**

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.**

## First reading

A reading from the prophecy of 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 backward. 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?

*Isaiah 50:4–9a*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St 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. *Philippians 2:5–11*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 O sacred head sore wounded** (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All**    **Glory to you O Lord.**

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, 'The Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.' On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal for you?" He replied, 'As you go into the city, you will see a certain man. Tell him, "The Teacher says: my time has come, and I will eat the Passover meal with my disciples at your house".' So the disciples did as Jesus told them and prepared the Passover meal there.

When it was evening, Jesus sat down at the table with the Twelve. While they were eating, he said, 'I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.' Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, 'Am I the one, Lord?' He replied, 'One of you who has just eaten from this bowl with me will betray me. For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!' Judas, the one who would betray him, also asked, 'Rabbi, am I the one?' Jesus told him, 'You have said it.'

As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body.' And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, 'Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many. Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom.'

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. *Matthew 26:1-2, 17-30*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

## Sermon Palm Sunday is a repeat of the three temptations

We've come full circle. Lent draws to a close just as surely as our readings show the earthly ministry of Jesus is also drawing to a close. St Matthew draws together the threads of the story so we need to look closely to see the picture in tapestry they weave.

We will recall, no doubt, how Jesus' earthly ministry started with a series of temptations in the wilderness. We know the story well: he was tempted to turn stones into bread; he was tempted to stand on the pinnacle of temple and throw himself off;

he was tempted to worship the devil. In each case, he withstood the temptations. But I wonder if you also remember the chilling words that conclude the account of the temptations in St Matthew's gospel: the devil withdrew ... *for a while?*

The stories of that Holy Week demonstrate clearly that the devil did come back and was attacking on those same three fronts although they look somewhat different.

In chronological order, the **first** of these new temptations occurred on that first Palm Sunday. Jesus was tempted yet again to become a worldly ruler. He was tempted to follow the earthly model of power and rule the way that earthly rulers rule. See him riding in pomp into ancient Jerusalem. don't be misled by popular piety. When a general had conquered a city, he rode a donkey into the main streets. It was a sort of 'rubbing it in' by saying 'see I've managed to conquer you and yet I only have this ass to ride on.' Jesus was being asked to look like a king, a general, an earthly vision of a messiah. If he had succumbed, he would indeed have got that power. The people were poised, triggered, waiting for such an earthly messiah and they *would* have followed him if he had given the word. But he didn't. He could have, but there would have been no further temptations; he would have fallen, and we would not have been saved.

The **second** repeated temptation occurred on Maundy Thursday, when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples. This time, the temptation again centred on food. The temptation was to have a meal that was all about food but only about food. Not turning stones into bread but leaving bread as bread. He didn't: he taught his disciples that they must eat bread that was more than bread: it was his body, his flesh, his substance, his memorial, and himself. Food but nothing about love. Jesus was obedient so the bread was God-soaked.

And the **third** repeated temptation revolved yet again around the Temple. This time, the devil was even more subtle. In the first Temptation in the wilderness, the devil asked Jesus to go to the Temple. No wonder, for at this time in Jewish history the temple lay at the very centre of all their religion. This was because the Jews at that time were taught that God lived there in the so-called 'Holy of holies' at its core. Jesus was asked to go there immediately he arrived in Jerusalem. He was again being asked to do miracles as conjuring tricks, cheap tricks to capture their imagination and allegiance. Instead he drew their gaze from himself to God the Father.

We're entering Holy Week as surely as Jesus entered Jerusalem. As we do so, we need to remember that any of the temptations we've resisted so far can and probably *will* come back. They'll look different because we'd spot them for what they really are

if they looked completely identical. Those temptations will generally involve power and pandering to self. They will usually involve the withholding of our love.

But just as Jesus resisted the temptations in the wilderness with the result that angels ministered to him, if we ask God for help to resist our own temptations during Holy Week, he *will* help us. We are to learn afresh the imperative to be God-centred people. We will probably go through a Gethsemane moment or two or three. But if we stay close to God, angels will also minister to us.

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All        We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All        We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All        We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All        This is our faith.  
              We believe and trust in one God,  
              Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## 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.**

*The Trisagion may be used*

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

**Leader** Merciful Father,

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

**All And also with you.**

**HYMN 3 Name of all majesty** (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

**HYMN 4 Amazing love (what love is this)** (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

# The 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 the Almighty:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with St Barnabas and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

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 and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All**     **We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

**All**     **Amen**

**All**     **Almighty God,**  
**we thank you for feeding us**  
**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**  
**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies**  
**to be a living sacrifice.**  
**Send us out**  
**in the power of your Spirit**  
**to live and work**  
**to your praise and glory.**  
**Amen.**