

The Liturgy of Palm Sunday

5 April 2020

✠ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Dear friends 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.

The palms are held up and blessed with the following words:

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, let these palms be ✠ 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Gospel of the Palms follows.

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

Glory to you O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately.^[a]" ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ "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."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd^[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ 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!"

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

We sing the hymn

**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.**

**The people of the Hebrews
With palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems
Before thee we present.**

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

The Collect is read.

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 and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Passion Gospel follows. (Matthew 26.14 – end 27)

Intercessions

Let us pray to the Father through his Son who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.
Fill with your Spirit Christ's broken body, the Church ...
Give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing to take up the cross and to understand its
mysterious glory.
By the Saviour's cross and passion, **Lord, save us and help us.**

Bless those who lead the Church's worship at this solemn time both in their homes and in holy
places. In the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments
draw your people close to you.
By the Saviour's cross and passion, **Lord, save us and help us.**

Look in your mercy upon the world you loved so much that you sent your Son to suffer and to die ... Strengthen those who work to share the reconciliation won at such a cost upon the cross. By the Saviour's cross and passion, **Lord, save us and help us.**

Bring healing by the wounds of Christ to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice ... Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying, to find strength in the companionship of Jesus, and in his passion to know their salvation. By the Saviour's cross and passion, **Lord, save us and help us.**

Welcome into paradise all who have left this world in your friendship ... According to your promises, bring them with all your saints to share in all the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection. By the Saviour's cross and passion, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The altar is prepared.

Yours Lord is the greatness, the power, the glory,
the splendour and the majesty:
**For all things come from you O Lord,
and of your own have we given you.**

The Lord be with you.	And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.	We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	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*:

**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 become for 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

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 bring before you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we offer 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 and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of N and 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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

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

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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Grant us peace.**

**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.**

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.

**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.**

We sing the hymn.

**My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I, That for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh, and die!**

**He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But oh, my Friend, My Friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend.**

Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
That He His foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Blessing & Dismissal

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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