

Palm Sunday service Sunday April 5th 2020

Welcome to this service for Palm Sunday. Usually today is marked by processions and the blessing of palms. We would hear both the account of the first 'Palm' Sunday, and of Jesus' trial and crucifixion, the conclusion of his entry into the Holy City. Today however, is different. We gather in our homes, and the palm crosses will continue to take their part in the life of the church, hopefully in being distributed later in the year, and by being burned for the ashes we will use to mark ourselves next Ash Wednesday. Wherever you are, we join with one heart and voice in praise of God who loved the world so much that he gave his son Jesus Christ to suffer with us and for us, and whose body and blood are broken and shared to bring us life.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All 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 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 Procession: as we reflect on Jesus' procession into Jerusalem and we hold either a cross or our own hands with the

palms placed in the shape of a cross let us either listen to, or read, the words of the hymn:

All Glory Laud and Honour

*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 company of angels
are praising thee on high;
and mortal men and all things
created, make reply.

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

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

Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

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 Collect

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

A reading from the letter of Paul 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. This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hear the 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, 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'.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

followed by **The Creed** .

**All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
Eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the
world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

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

The Blessing of palms

*We hold up our hands in the shape of a cross, or hold up a cross
while this prayer is said.*

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah
to suffer and to die;
bless these palms, that they may 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 now and for ever.
All Amen.

The Blessing

Christ crucified draw us 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 among us and remain with us always.

All Amen.