

Palm Sunday

Note: Please follow the service broadcast from our YouTube channel, following the link given in the email with this liturgy.



Opening Response:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you; righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)

As the people spread their coats and palm branches on the ground to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, so we welcome him into our lives this morning.

King of Glory, King of Peace, Servant King, reign in our hearts and lives this day and all days,
that we might praise your holy name. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

ALL: Hosanna in the highest

From Psalm 118

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

ALL: Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

ALL: The LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;

ALL: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

ALL: From the house of the LORD we bless you

The LORD is God and he has made his light shine upon us.

ALL: With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the altar.

You are my God, and I will give you thanks you are my God, and I will exalt you.

ALL: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Confession and Forgiveness:

Jesus rode into Jerusalem not as a conquering king but in humility, the Servant King, ready to complete the task for which he had walked this world. Forgive us those times when we think too highly of ourselves and remind us always that you ask from us lives dedicated to service, to you and to our neighbours, wherever and whoever they might be. Enable us to take off our cloaks of self-righteousness and lay them down at your feet.

‘Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord” – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.’

Psalm 32:5

May the God of Love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Collect:

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.

Amen

Reading - Matt 21:1-11 - The Triumphal Entry

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.’

There is a short reflection on the recorded service on YouTube

Christ Jesus, you came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.

ALL: Precious Jesus, we offer you our praise and thanks.

You poured living water into lives that were parched and thirsty.

ALL: Precious Jesus, we offer you our praise and thanks.

You fed souls that were hungry with the bread of life.

ALL: Precious Jesus, we offer you our praise and thanks.

You brought healing through a touch that knew no prejudice or barrier.

ALL: Precious Jesus, we offer you our praise and thanks.

You brought Salvation through the cross,

ALL: Precious Jesus, we offer you our praise and thanks.

Intercessions:

(Listen to the prayers said and add your own, pausing the video if necessary)

The Lord's Prayer:

We say together the words of the Lord's Prayer.

All: Our Father...

Affirmation:

What a strange paradox; the King is coming, the people rejoice, singing ‘Hosanna in the highest!’ yet fail to understand that the King they welcome is the Servant King, the King who

washes his disciples' feet, the King who came not with an army but a weapon so powerful that not even death could resist, the sacrificial love of God laid out upon a Cross.

Lord God, as we sing our 'Hosannas' today may we remember also that which you were riding toward; the suffering and rejection, pain and humiliation, the cruel Cross. And let us look forward to the joy of Easter Day when you rose from death to reign forever.

Help us, as we daily lay our lives before you, to live the resurrection life that acknowledges Jesus as Lord and King over our lives.

Amen

Closing Blessing:

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring us by faith to his eternal life. **Amen.**

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep us steadfast as we walk with him the way of his cross. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set our minds on life and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**