

St Stephen with St John
Westminster

St Matthew's
Westminster



The Liturgy for Palm Sunday

April 10th, 2022



A warm welcome to this united service in which our two parishes come together for worship at the start of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, with a blessing of palms and a procession in which the whole congregation carries palms, and witnesses to Jesus Christ as King in their own parish communities. The day is also marked by reading the story of Jesus' Passion (the word used to describe Jesus' death comes from 'suffering', which is one old meaning of passion). This takes us to the heart of Holy Week, reminding us that the kingly power of Christ is the power of self-giving love.

Please ensure mobile telephones are switched off for the duration of the service.

For those who are hard of hearing the church has an inductive loop system. Please set your hearing aid to the T position during the liturgy.

Gluten free hosts are available for those who are gluten intolerant. Please ask for this before the service begins.

THE BLESSING OF PALMS & PROCESSION OF WITNESS

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!

The priest welcomes the people.

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 Blessing of Palms

please hold your palms high as they are blessed by the priest.

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

SSRR Choir?

The Palm Sunday Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' '

They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

The Procession

Priest Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.
All **In the name of the Lord. Amen.**

Please follow the Great Cross as we move from St Stephen's to St Matthew's.

As we will be on public roads please try to keep pace so the procession holds together.

The Procession is a dramatic way to recall and celebrate the beginning of these days of the passion and death of Our Lord. Palm crosses and branches are carried although they are secondary to the procession itself. The procession does not simply remind us of what happened in the past - it is in itself an act of praise to Christ. However our praise is offered to the One whose reign is on a cross, and it expresses our readiness to take up our cross and follow our crucified and risen Lord, as we go with him to the place of suffering and death.

Hymns for the Procession

*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:

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes 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 wingèd squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The 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 power, and reign.

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And they left me there on a cross to die:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance and I still go on:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

As we enter St Matthew's we sing:

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:

Do thou direct our footsteps
Upon our earthly way,
And bring us by thy mercy
To heaven's eternal day.

Within that blessèd City
Thy praises may we sing,
And ever raise hosannas
To our most loving King.

As the clergy & servers enter the church the choir sing:

Hosanna to the Son of David
Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)

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 our Lord. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Philippians 2. 5-11

A Reading from the second Letter of Paul the Apostle 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.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 64. 1-4

*Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer * preserve my life from fear of the enemy.
Hide me from the gathering together of the froward * and from the insurrection of wicked doers;
Who have whet their tongue like a sword * and shoot out their arrows, even bitter words;
That they may privily shoot at him that is perfect * suddenly do they hit him, and fear not.*

The Passion Gospel

St Luke 22.39 – 23.49

No responses are made after the announcement or at the end of the Passion Gospel.

*The congregation are invited to join in the parts in **bold type**, and to stand at the point indicated in the text.*

Evangelist Jesus came out, and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place he said:

Jesus Pray that you may not enter into temptation.

Evangelist And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed:

Jesus Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but yours, be done.

Evangelist And there appeared to him an angel from heaven strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them:

Jesus Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.

Evangelist While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him:

Jesus Judas, would you betray the Son of man with a kiss?

Evangelist And when those who were about him saw what would follow, they said:

Disciples (All) **Lord, shall we strike with the sword?**

Evangelist And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said:

Jesus No more of this!

Evangelist And he touched his ear and healed him. Then he said to the chief priests and captains of the Temple and elders who had come out against him:

Jesus Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the Temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Evangelist Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. Peter followed at distance; and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

Then a maid, seeing him as he sat in the light and gazing at him, said:

Maid This man also was with him.

Evangelist But he denied it:

Peter Woman, I do not know him.

Evangelist And a little later some one else saw him and said:

Bystander 1 You also are one of them.

Peter Man, I am not.

Evangelist And after an interval of about an hour, still another insisted:

Bystander 2 Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.

Peter Man, I do not know what you are saying.

Evangelist And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times'. And he went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and asked him:

Men (All) **Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?**

Evangelist And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes; and they led him away to their council, and they said:

Priests (All) **If you are the Christ, tell us.**

Jesus If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

Priests (All) **Are you the Son of God, then?**

Jesus You say that I am.

Priests (All) **What further testimony do we need?
We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.**

Evangelist Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him:

Priests (All) **We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ a king.**

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus You have said so.

Pilate (*to the priests*) I find no crime in this man.

Priests (All) (*urgently*) **He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.**

Evangelist When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at length but Jesus made no answer. The chief priests and scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. Pilate then called together the chief priests and rulers of the people, and said to them:

Pilate You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Behold, nothing

deserving death has been done by him; I will therefore chastise him and release him.

Evangelist But they all cried out together:

The Congregation stands

Priests (All) **Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas.**

Evangelist A man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus; but they shouted out:

Priests (All) **Crucify him, crucify him!**

Evangelist A third time he spoke to them:

Pilate Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise him and release him.

Evangelist But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will. And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said:

Jesus Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us'. For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

Evangelist Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said:

Jesus Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

Evangelist And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him:

Priests (All) **He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!**

Evangelist The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar:

Soldiers (All) **If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!**

Evangelist There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews'. One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him:

Robber 1 Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!

Evangelist But the other rebuked him:

Robber 2 Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power.

Jesus Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

Evangelist It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the Temple was torn in two. Then Jesus cried with a loud voice:

Jesus Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

Evangelist And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God:

Centurion Certainly this man was innocent!

Evangelist And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Evangelist This is the Passion of The Lord.
(*no response is made*).

The Nicene Creed

*Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with me
the faith of the Church.*

We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
Earth and heaven sprang to being,
All created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
Virgin-born, the child of Mary
Upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
Like a lamb to slaughter led,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
He descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
Heaven's king to rule and reign,
To the Father's side ascended
Till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit;
In one Church, below, above:
Saints of God in one communion,
One in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
We shall rise with him in glory
To the life that knows no end.

Words: F Pratt Green (b 1903-2000)

Music: Blaenwern (CP 301), William P Rowlands (1860-1937)

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

Priest 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.**
Priest Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory 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 O, 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.

Love Unknown (CP 112)
John Ireland (1879-1962)

Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
 Sweet injuries!
 Yet they at these
Themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

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.

Samuel Crossman (1624-83)

The Eucharistic Prayer *(please stand)*

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

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

...

**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.**

...

Priest Great is the mystery of faith.

All **Christ has died**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...

Priest ... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A short time of silence is kept at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

**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

*The consecrated bread is broken in silence.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in the one bread.*

Agnus Dei

Holy Communion

The Celebrant invites the congregation to receive Communion, and all respond

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

A note for visitors - anyone who receives Holy Communion at their own church is welcome to do so at this service. If for any reason you do not wish to receive Communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Communion Anthem

Hosanna to the Son of David
Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

*Hosanna to the Son of David:
blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the King of Israel;
blessed be the Kingdom that cometh in the name of the Lord:
peace in heaven, and glory in the highest places;
Hosanna in the highest heavens.
St Matthew 21, St Mark 11, St Luke 19*

The Postcommunion Prayer *(please stand)*.

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. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn

Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

Not the labours of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone:
Thou must save, and thou alone.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes are closed in death,
When I soar through tracts unknown,
See thee on thy judgement throne;
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

Words: A M Toplady (1740-78)

Music: Petra (CP 565), R Redhead (1820-1901)

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

the priest pronounces God's Blessing, which is followed by the Dismissal.

The Mass is ended. Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional Anthem

Hosianna dem Sohne Davids
Bartholomäus Gesius (1560-1613)

Organ Postlude

Fantasia on 'Valet will ich dir geben'
J S Bach (1685-1750)



Palm Sunday

The taste of hosannas is still on my lips,
the smell of the palms as they patter against
the cloudless blue sky of Jerusalem's day
when David's own scion comes riding a colt
and prophesy seems to arrive as we hoped
while children, the children, all sing him their psalms
and stones lying silent could echo their songs,
'Hosanna! Hosanna to David's own son!',
when everything's changed. The Messiah we have,
he isn't the one that we want; not the king
who'll ravage our foes and will raise up the House
of God: the grey temple we built with our hands.
A tremor now passes throughout the crowd come
to celebrate Passover; start the great feast
of Memory held in the fullness of time
and lived in again, in eternity Lord,
and 'Crucify! Crucify,' echoes on still.
It bounces off stones and it shivers my soul.

Br David Hirt, OFM, Cap.