



**St Stephen with St John
Westminster**
www.sswsj.org

Palm Sunday Liturgy



St Stephen's Westminster



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Palm Sunday

The Sunday before Easter is the last Sunday in Lent.

The day 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.

Some of the Palm Sunday palms are kept and used to make the Ash Wednesday ashes for the next year.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

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

Hosanna in the highest!



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!

**All Hosanna to the Son of David,
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

The Greeting

The president greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All and also with you.

Introduction

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 in our homes to begin with others throughout
the world, this solemn celebration in union with the Church. 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.

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to
die;
let these palms and branches 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.

All Amen.

The Palm Gospel

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew
All **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.'

At the end of the Gospel

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

Processional Hymn

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.
All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Scripture Reading. Philippians 2.5–11

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.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118 (vv. 1–2,19–29*)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

Let Israel say,

‘His steadfast love endures for ever.’

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

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

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

The Passion Gospel

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

All Hear the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark: Hear the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

Mark: It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

***Chief Priests:* Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.**

Mark: While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

***Crowd:* Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.**

Mark: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

Jesus: Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

Mark: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, the disciples said to Jesus,

***Disciples:* Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?**

Mark: So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

Jesus: Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house,

‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.

Mark: So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

Mark: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

***Disciples:* Surely, not I?**

Mark: Jesus said to them,

Jesus: It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Mark: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

Jesus: Take; this is my body.

Mark: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

Jesus: This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Mark: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

Jesus: You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike

the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

Mark: Peter said to him,

Peter: Even though all become deserters, I will not.

Mark: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

Mark: But Peter said vehemently,

Peter: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Mark: And all of them said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples,

Jesus: Sit here while I pray.

Mark: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them,

Jesus: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.

Mark: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

Jesus: Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.

Mark: Jesus came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mark: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

Jesus: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Mark: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.

Mark: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

Judas: Rabbi!

Mark: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the

temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.

Mark: All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

Crowd: **We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'**

Mark: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

High Priest: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Mark: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

High Priest: Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

Mark: Jesus said,

Jesus: I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'

Mark: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest: Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy!
What is your decision?

Mark: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

Chief Priests: **Prophecy!**

Mark: The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

Servant Girl: You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

Mark: But he denied it, saying,

Peter: I do not know or understand what you are talking about.

Mark: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

Servant Girl: This man is one of them.

Mark: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

Crowd: **Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.**

Mark: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter: I do not know this man you are talking about.

Mark: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

Mark 15.1

Mark: As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Mark: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: You say so.

Mark: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

Pilate: Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.

Mark: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

Pilate: Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

Mark: For he realised that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

Pilate: Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

Mark: They shouted back,

Crowd: **Crucify him!**

Mark: Pilate asked them,

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Mark: But they shouted all the more,

Crowd: **Crucify him!**

Mark: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

Soldiers: **Hail, King of the Jews!**

Mark: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then

they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Crowd: **Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!**

Mark: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

Chief Priests: **He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.**

Mark: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Mark: which means,

Jesus: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Mark: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

***Crowd:* Listen, he is calling for Elijah.**

Mark: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Bystander: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

Mark: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

Centurion: Truly this man was God's Son!

Mark 15.39

Mark: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

At the end the reader says:

This is the Passion of the Lord.

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

Silence is kept

Prayers of Intercession

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.**

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

The Preparation of the Table

Offering is available online at [CAF Donate](#), or please leave donations in the box by the North Door at the end of the service.

The Offertory Hymn

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond:

All **Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee O Lord most high.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The president recalls the Last Supper

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology to which all respond
boldly: **Amen.***

All kneel. Silence is kept.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.**

The Breaking of Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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.**

**O Lamb of God,
That takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God,
That takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God,
That takest away the sins of the world,
Grant us thy peace.**

Distribution of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

Post Communion Prayer

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.

All Amen.

All Loving God,
whether we are in your church or joining online from another
place, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and
nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body
and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, and
renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and
continue in the risen life of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Notices

Final Hymn

The 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 among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Today:

10:00am Parish Eucharist

6:00pm Evensong

Morning & Evening Prayer are said Monday to Friday, 9.15am & 6.00pm

Silent Hour on Tuesdays at 5pm

BCP Wednesdays at 12:30pm.

Tonight, following Evensong, Marc Woodhead will be taking us through a A Slow Look at Pietro Lorenzetti's *Entry into Jerusalem*, Basilica di San Francesco, Assisi, 1320.

**Annual Church Cleaning and****Decorating** will take place on Saturday 3rd

of April at 1pm, to prepare for Easter. All would be very welcome! If anyone would like to make a financial contribution to flowers for our church, please speak to Graham.

Tenebrae at St John's Smith Square will be available to view online at 7:30pm on Palm Sunday as well as on Weds, Thurs and Friday of Holy week at 6:30. For more details please see their [website here](#)

Our Lent Booklet in conjunction with Holy Trinity New York and St Barnabas, is now available to download here. Please do circulate and encourage others to download to use as part of their Lenten devotion.

Every Wednesday at 7pm in March, together with St Barnabas & St Matthew, we will be hosting a [Virtual Lent Supper Talk & Discussion](#). Meeting ID: 863 6454 4699 Passcode: SZoALB

Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent on Facebook Live at 12:30

Lent Appeal 2021 will focus on raising awareness of the issue of Youth Violence and raising money for the three charities that challenge this: XLP, TLG and Redthread. Please mindfully consider supporting the Lent Appeal.

Vaccines – There is a newly opened vaccination centre at Edgware Road. People aged over 60 need not wait for an invite and can go online and book their appointment on the national booking system for this centre right away at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination. Please also note that Age UK are offering free transport to anyone over 50 requiring assistance to get their vaccination. Please call 07497 188 221 to arrange.

Prayers of Intercession

In our parish cycle of prayer: *Our Choir and Organists and Local Hotels and Public Houses*

For those who live in: *Carey Street and Page Street*

As part of St Stephen's link with the Church in Myanmar:
the work of the mission organisations linked with Burma, especially USPG and Crosslinks and for a just and peaceful solution to the recent troubles

We pray for our New York City link parish:
The Church of the Holy Trinity and their Rector, Revd John F. Beddingfield, praying particularly for Spring renewal of children's Sunday school

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:
Pray for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (The Holy Catholic Church of Hong Kong): Andrew Chan (Archbishop, and Bishop of Western Kowloon)
Funen (Denmark): Tine Lindhardt (Bishop)

Capital Vision Confident Disciples: pray for those who work in the world of marketing and media

Pray for the work of retired priests in the Stepney Area

Among those who have asked for our prayers:

Robin Fairfax; Vera Godsall; Marian Hall; Jean Haswell; Dyfrig Jones; Alan Mack; Michael Pryce Jones; Miriam Lesmond; Pete Read; Henry Taylor; John Travis-Clarke; Gay Widmer; Anne Norman-Butler; Marian McHale; Amal Griffin; Fraser Copley and his dad, Kevin Copley; Pete Barney; Tom Robinson; Ramone, his parents Anne and Mo, and his brothers Liam and Raheem; John Turpin; Tony Reid; Mark O'Donnell; Jan Broad; Angela Farquhar; Lynette Burrows; Michael Cross; Joanna Smith; Baby Alexander and his parents Rebecca and Oliver Peachey; Janet St John Austen

For the Years' Mind of: *Winifred Dale; Ivy Jane Fall; Charley Sewell; Marion Ragna Rodgers*