

A Service for Palm Sunday



St Laurence Church, Downton

Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem

Hosanna to the Son of David.

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

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion,
meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass.

Ride on in the cause of truth
and for the sake of justice.

Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever;
and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.

You have loved righteousness and hated evil.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

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

The Greeting

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

Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters 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.

We all hold up our palms while this prayer is said:

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

The Palm Gospel

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

At the end

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

The Collect

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

Silence is kept.

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. **Amen.**

A Litany

(Using Isaiah 62, Zechariah 9, and Psalm 118. Written for Evangelical United Church of Christ, 1999. Copyright Katherine Hawker)

The prophet Zechariah called to the people:
Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

We said the day of our Lord will come tomorrow.

**Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy,
Have mercy upon us.**

The prophet Isaiah called to the people:
Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The Lord has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him,"

So we waited to prepare the road for our Lord.

**Christ have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Have mercy upon us.**

The psalmist invited the people to sing:
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.

The Lord is coming.
The messiah rides in.
Will we notice?
Will we sing?

**Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy,
Have mercy upon us.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians 2:5-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim, "His mercy endures for ever."

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter.

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna! Lord, send us now success.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we
bless you from the house of the Lord.**

God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; form a procession with
branches up to the horns of the altar.

**You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and
I will exalt you.**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for
ever.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Passion Reading

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above every name.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

When the Passion is announced the reader says

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

At the end

This is the Passion of the Lord.

No response is made.

Sermon

Silence may be kept.

Prayers of Intercession

We offer our prayers to God, in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray.

God, whose son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday, we pray for our village:

- For those who live here, in comfort or in need;
- For those who study, work or serve here;
- For those whose decisions and example shape our common life.

Silence

We pray that the disturbing story of Jesus may continue to find its way into hearts and minds, and so renew lives and transform communities.

God, whose son Jesus Christ humbled himself even to death on the cross, we pray for all in pain or distress:

- For those who suffer because of the inhumanity of others;
- For those who are sick, or frail, or depressed;
- For the dying and the bereaved.

Silence

We pray for strength and encouragement, for wholeness and for justice, for comfort and for hope.

God, whose son Jesus Christ is exalted and given the name above every name, we pray for the coming of your kingdom:

- In the lives of your people;
- In the worship and witness of your Church;
- In and for the whole of your Creation.

Silence

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Blessing

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. **Amen.**