

# ***Palm Sunday Service 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022***

## ***The blessing of the Palm crosses***

**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.**

Lent has been a time for preparing, by works of love and self-sacrifice, for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today Christians across the world are united in beginning this solemn celebration. 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.

*Please hold up your palm cross while saying this prayer:*

**God our Saviour,**

**whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## ***The Gospel***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Luke 19.28-40

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

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

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you O Christ**

## **Hymn – All glory, laud and honour**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHN8UAK6Yow>

*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. *Refrain*

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

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

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

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

John Mason Neale  
(1818-1866)

## **Confession**

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins:

**For the many times we have denied Jesus,  
Lord, have mercy.**

**For our wrong actions and thoughts,  
Lord, have mercy.**

**For our failures to bring reconciliation among divided Christian  
people,  
Lord, have mercy.**

**For any failing to support the sick or isolated,  
Lord, have mercy.**

**For when we are weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow  
and we fail to turn to you,  
Lord, have mercy.**

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.

### ***Psalm 118:1-2; 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.

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 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.  
**Amen.**

## ***Hymn – Ride on, ride on in majesty***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZU6CCAi3H0>

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
hark, all the tribes Hosanna cry.  
O Saviour meek, pursue thy 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 angel armies of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
thy 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.

Henry Hart Milman  
(1791-1868)

## ***Sermon***

Jesus is the centre of the Palm Sunday story, but I wonder if you noticed how his role changed during the day?

Firstly, at the beginning of our gospel reading we hear that “Jesus went on ahead.”

Picture yourself as one of the disciples perhaps sitting around and chatting, talking to people in the crowd which had formed to listen to one of Jesus' parables. You knew that you were all generally heading for Jerusalem to be there in time for the Passover, and maybe someone had gone off to make some sandwiches.

And you saw the lonely figure of Jesus walking away by himself.

He must have looked an isolated figure, determined not to falter on the tasks ahead of him, and perhaps simply wanting to get on with it, to set off as soon as he could.

Maybe you've sometimes done the same thing? Have you ever set off, saying to yourself "I'll just get ahead, so as to be there in good time," perhaps feeling a bit piqued that others don't feel the same way as you, don't share your sense of urgency?

Although Luke wasn't one of the disciples (he became a Christian later as a pupil of St Paul), Jesus setting off alone was clearly remembered by those who had been there. Maybe they felt a bit ashamed and hurried after him?

Jesus was carrying an enormous burden of responsibility as a leader, which, as we know from the Garden of Gethsemane, weighed on him heavily. Seeing him going on alone seems to have really shocked the disciples, and they suddenly grew up.

So by the time that Jesus had reached the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem his disciples had caught up with him, and he was able to send two of them to fetch a colt for him to ride. They did this willingly, and thus Jesus was able to rest a while and await their coming back with the colt. Rather than being alone, he was now being well-supported by his friends.

And then, remarkably, the disciples took over responsibility for what happened next, and "set Jesus on the colt." They helped him into the saddle, presumably took the reins and then led the colt down the hill as he rode down from the Mount of Olives.

And then it wasn't just the disciples supporting him and cheering him on, it was the "whole multitude." The disciples were completely aligned again with their leader, and he, riding on a humble colt, aligned himself with his disciples. A brilliant example of mutual support.

It turned out to be a day of life-changing transitions:

- Jesus moving from being lonely and isolated, to being the centre of attention and being cheered and supported by all.
- The disciples rapidly moving from feeling comfortable about letting Jesus take all the responsibility, through perhaps guilt at being slow to follow him, to solicitude, caring for the most wonderful person they had ever known.
- The crowd realising that the man riding humbly on a colt was the same man who had done many “deeds of power that they had seen.” So they took the opportunity to show their gratitude by cheering him all the way. They felt he was one of them, and yet also so very different.

I wonder if you've ever experienced any such life-changing transitions?

- How about on a wedding day, when the move is from fiancée to husband or wife!
- Maybe you were selected to be the captain of a team, which sounded great at first, but then you had to learn to motivate everyone else, and support them when they needed help.
- Perhaps when you were at the end of your tether, and your neighbour noticed, invited you in for a cup of tea, and then became a wonderful support.
- Perhaps when you first consciously said to yourself – “I definitely do want to be a Christian and try to follow him where God leads me,” maybe because you had got to know a Christian community, respected them and found that being with other Christians was a great support.
- Or maybe something on a much smaller scale, say when somebody smiles at you and it brightens up your day.

The very fact that we are here today, celebrating Jesus' amazing journey through the cheering crowd, is a sign in itself. As is the Palm Cross which, if you place it somewhere prominent at home, might prompt a life-changing conversation with someone else...

Of course these events are not of our making, but evidence of the workings of the Holy Spirit in us.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

## ***Creed***

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## ***The Peace***

Jesus says to his disciples,  
'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.  
Not as the world gives do I give to you.  
Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid.'

**May the peace of the Lord be with us in this place.**

## ***Hymn - Make way, make way for Christ the King***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1I5NSvGo2I>

Make way, make way, for Christ the King  
In splendour arrives.  
Fling wide the gates and welcome him  
Into your lives.

*Make way! (Make way!)*

*Make way! (Make way!)*

*For the King of kings!*

*(For the King of kings!)*

*Make way! (Make way!)*

*Make way! (Make way!)*

And let his kingdom in!

He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
The prisoners to free.  
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
The blind shall see.  
*Make way! (Make way!)*  
*Make way! (Make way!)*  
*For the King of kings!*  
*(For the King of kings!)*  
*Make way! (Make way!)*  
*Make way! (Make way!)*  
*And let his kingdom in!*

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
Who weep and sigh;  
With laughter, joy and royal crown  
He'll beautify.  
*Make way! (Make way!)....*

We call you now to worship him  
As Lord of all.  
To have no other gods but him:  
Their thrones must fall!  
*Make way! (Make way!)....*

Graham Kendrick  
(b 1950)

## ***Prayers***

Let us pray to God, our heavenly Father.

You sent your Son to give his life  
as a ransom for the whole human family.  
Give justice, peace and racial harmony to the world he died to save.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You gave your Son a share in the life of a family in Nazareth.  
Help us to value our families, to be thankful for them.  
As we are locked down and scattered, we bring them before you.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your Son drew around him a company of friends.  
Bring love and joy to all who are alone.  
Help us all to find in the brothers and sisters of Christ a loving family.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In this time when the pandemic is still affecting so many lives,  
we bring before you:  
Those working in hospitals and in care homes  
Those caring for people in their own homes  
The sick  
The vulnerable  
The dying

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You are the God of the dead as well as of the living.  
We bring before you all who are mourning the loss of loved ones,  
and those who fear the loss of a relative or friend.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

**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.**

### ***Hymn – You are the King of glory***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6C0-dkK8cnQ>

You are the King of glory,  
You are the Prince of peace,  
You are the Lord of heaven and earth,  
You're the Son of righteousness.  
Angels bow down before You,  
worship and adore,  
for you have the words of eternal life,  
You are Jesus Christ the Lord.  
Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Hosanna to the King of kings!  
Glory in the highest heaven,  
for Jesus the Messiah reigns!  
(Repeat)

Mavis Ford  
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### ***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 us and remain with us always.  
**Amen.**