

# The Liturgy of Palm Sunday



## **Palm Sunday**

The Liturgy and Procession of Palms is the first liturgical action in Holy Week which reminds us of the main events in the last week of Jesus' ministry. This year, the procession will be symbolic. Procession of the palms, symbolic or otherwise, is important as it not only reminds us of what happened then, but it is also an act of praise to Christ the King who reigns and triumphs on the cross – and it reminds us of our own readiness to take up our own cross and follow him – our crucified and risen Lord, as we go with him to the place of suffering and death.

The reading of the Passion Gospel takes us into the heart of Holy Week. Although the services throughout this week are shaped by the historical commemoration of the events of Jesus' last week of his earthly life, taken together they form an extended celebration of the victory he won over death. The Passion Gospel reminds us that the kingly power of Christ is the power of self-giving love alone.

## Gathering Hymn

**Make way, make way  
For Christ the King  
In splendour arrives  
Fling wide the gates and welcome Him  
Into your lives. *Refrain***

***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. *Refrain***

**And those who mourn with heavy hearts  
Who weep and sigh  
With laughter, joy and royal crown  
He'll beautify. *Refrain***

**We call you now to worship Him  
As Lord of all  
To have no gods before Him  
Their thrones must fall! *Refrain***

*Graham Kendrick*

## The Liturgy of Palm Sunday

*Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem*

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 Greeting**

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

**All 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.

*Palm crosses or other plant branches are held up whilst 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 forever.

**All Amen.**

## **The Palm Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Mark*.

**All** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'"

<sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our Ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" <sup>11</sup>Then he 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.

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

## **Prayers of Penitence**

*The president invites the people to confess their sins using these or other suitable words*

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Father eternal,

**All giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light.**

**Amen.**

*The president says*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **The Collect**

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

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 forever.

**All Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **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.

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

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Mark*.

*(No response is made)*

As soon as morning came,  
the chief priests with the elders and the scribes,  
that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council.  
They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.  
Pilate questioned him,  
“Are you the king of the Jews?”  
He said to him in reply, “You say so.”  
The chief priests accused him of many things.  
Again Pilate questioned him,  
“Have you no answer?  
See how many things they accuse you of.”  
Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them one prisoner whom they requested.

A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion.

The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do for them as he was accustomed.

Pilate answered,

“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?”

For he knew that it was out of envy 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 again said to them in reply,

“Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?”

They shouted again, “Crucify him.”

Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done?”

They only shouted the louder, “Crucify him.”

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort.

They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him.

They began to salute him with, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him.

They knelt before him in homage.

And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him.



They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon,  
a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country,  
the father of Alexander and Rufus,  
to carry his cross.

They brought him to the place of Golgotha  
—which is translated Place of the Skull —  
They gave him wine drugged with myrrh,  
but he did not take it.

Then they crucified him and divided his garments  
by casting lots for them to see 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.”

With him they crucified two revolutionaries,  
one on his right and one on his left.  
Those passing by reviled him,  
shaking their heads and saying,  
“Aha! You who would destroy the temple  
and rebuild it in three days,  
save yourself by coming down from the cross.”

Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes,  
mocked him among themselves and said,  
“He saved others; he cannot save himself.  
Let the Christ, the King of Israel,  
come down now from the cross  
that we may see and believe.”

Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him.

At noon darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon.

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”  
which is translated,

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

“Look, he is calling Elijah.”

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink saying,

“Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.”

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

*Here all kneel or stand and pause for a short time.*

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him

saw how he breathed his last he said,

“Truly this man was the Son of God!”

This is the Passion of the Lord.

*(No response is made)*

***Silence is kept***

**Prayers of Intercession**

*Response to ‘let us pray to the Lord’ is **Lord have mercy.***

*Prayers end all saying together*

**Holy God, holy and strong,**

**holy and immortal,**

**mercy upon us.**

**Hymn - At the name of Jesus** *sung by St Martin’s Voices*

- 1 At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him  
King of Glory now:  
'tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word:**
- 2 Humbled for a season,  
to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners  
unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it  
spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious  
when from death he passed.**
- 3 Name him, Christians, name him,  
with love strong as death,  
but with awe and wonder,  
and with bated breath;  
he is God the Saviour,  
he is Christ the Lord,  
ever to be worshipped,  
trusted and adored.**
- 4 Surely, this Lord Jesus  
shall return again,  
with his Father's glory,  
with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire  
meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him  
King of Glory now.**

*Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)*

# 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.**

## Preparation of the Table

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,  
ever giving yourself that the world might live,  
let us share your death and passion:  
make us perfect in your love.

**All Amen.**

## 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.**

It is indeed right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near  
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross  
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world  
and the triumph of Christ crucified.  
He is the victim who dies no more,  
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,  
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,  
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**All 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of the *St Barnabas* and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever

**All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**All we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

### **Giving 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.**

*The President receives the Body and the Blood on behalf of the people.*

*The president lifts the priest wafer and says before receiving the bread*

The Body of Christ.

**All Amen.**

*The president lifts the wine and says before receiving the wine*

The Blood of Christ.

**All Amen.**

*The people are encouraged to say the words of Act of Spiritual Communion:*

**My Jesus,**

**I believe that You are present**

**in the Most Holy Sacrament.**

**I love You above all things,**

**and desire to receive You into my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,**

**come at least spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace You as if You were already there**

**and unite myself wholly to You.**

**Never permit me to be separated from You.**

**Amen.**

## **Prayers after Communion**

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 Faithful God,  
may we who share this banquet  
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
our salvation, life and hope,  
who reigns as Lord now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

### **Notices**

### **The Blessing**

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

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

## **Closing hymn – Ride on, ride on in majesty *sung by St Martin's Voices***

**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!  
he winged squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wandering 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 your meek head to mortal pain;  
then take, O Christ, your power and reign.**

*Henry Hart Milman from 'Musikalisches Handbuch' 1690*

## **The Dismissal**

Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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