

Palm Sunday Communion Liturgy 2020

The Greeting

The Lord is Here

His Spirit is with us

Welcome and introduction

Introduction

The president introduces the celebration using these words

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing to renew our following of Jesus into his death and resurrection. Today we 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 people hold up palms while this prayer is said by the president

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.

All Amen.

Collect for Palm Sunday

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:

grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

All Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter 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.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 118: 19-24

- ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.
²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Gospel Reading

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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew*

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 21:1-11

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon - A Tale of Two Processions in One City



Messianic Prophecy - Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O daughter of Jerusalem:
behold, thy King cometh unto thee:
he is just, and having salvation: lowly,
and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt
the foal of an ass. (KJV)

Matthew 21:7 says Jesus entered Jerusalem on an ass and its colt. Since He would not have put his weight on an immature animal, this is how I imagine He might have satisfied the prophecy.

N.b., donkey and ass are synonyms.

A foal is a baby donkey.

A colt is a young male donkey.

Donkeys are weaned at about six months and then removed from their mothers' presence.

The fact the colt was tied up near its dam suggests it was old enough to begin weaning.



Confession

[We stand with Christ in his suffering especially as he suffers with our suffering world in this time of Coronavirus.]

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For grace to let Christ show us the sins
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 we may let our common bond in Christ
Be stronger than our differences
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For our Government and Parliament
that our common life may be ordered in justice, unity 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 of isolation or bereavement
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.

Prayers of the People

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. *Ephesians 2.13,14*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

These words may be added

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

(feel free to text brothers or sisters you are away from)

The Communion

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

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.

[*Holy*, Holy, Holy]

It is always right to give you thanks,

God our Creator,

loving and faithful,

holy and strong.

You made us

and the whole universe,

and filled your world with life.

[*Holy*, Holy, Holy]

You sent your Son to live among us,

Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.

He suffered on the cross;

he died to save us from our sins;

he rose in glory from the dead.

[*Holy*, Holy, Holy]

You send your Spirit

to bring new life to the world,

and clothe us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels

to celebrate and sing:

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.

Father, on the night before he died,

Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.
After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

[*Amen*, Amen, **Amen**.]

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

[*Amen*, Amen, **Amen**.]

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.

[*Amen*, Amen] **Amen**.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

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.

Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,

grant us peace.

The invitation

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.

We break and eat bread together in our homes

Post Communion Prayer

All may say

All God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

Holy Week online services and meditations on the Website

The Blessing

May God the Father,
who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to you a contrite heart.
Amen.

May Christ,
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal you by his wounds.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen

There will be a zoom virtual coffee time at 11.30am. If you have not had an invitation send an email to rosy.fairhurst@leeds.anglican.org and she will send you one.