

PALM SUNDAY

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 in our own homes to begin this solemn celebration in union with our friends in their own homes and indeed with 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.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

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

Light a candle

The light of Christ rises in glory,
overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

Christ is our light!

A light no darkness can overcome.

The light of Christ has come into the world,
to shine upon us, and to guide our feet on the path of peace.

ACT OF CONTRITION

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things, and I repent with my whole heart of having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again, grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

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

GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 21.1-11

Read the passage and in a time of silence reflect on what God is saying to you through it.

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.^[a]”

⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵“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.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd^[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

PRAYERS

The Church. Lord, whose Son rode through the streets to a triumphant welcome, we welcome you today into our hearts. We ask you this day to enter into every corner of your church worldwide, so that we, and all who meet in your name, may be enabled to proclaim you throughout our world.

Remembering that many of those who shouted ‘Hosanna’ on Palm Sunday cried ‘Crucify’ on Good Friday, we ask you to help us remain steadfast in our faith. Strengthen us O Lord, to travel the way of the cross, in order to walk with you thereafter in newness of life.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

The World and our nation. We pray that at this time of international crisis, you will guide all those in positions of power of influence in the ways of justice and peace for all. We pray particularly for our health service and those worldwide seeking to combat the spread and effects of Coronavirus and indeed all afflictions.

We pray for the safety of medical staff and volunteers and that nations will be protected and preserved at this time. For those who suffer from want or warfare too, we pray your protection from all that assails them.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Our local community. Lord, we pray for those amongst whom we live, work and pass our time – many of whom we are isolated from now. Empower all that is being done for our collective good, bless those who serve our community and help us to play our part in any way that we can.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Those in special need. Lord, we pray for those who are in any kind of need, whether in body, mind or spirit. We pray especially for the lonely and the fearful at this time, grant them and all those who suffer, the assurance of your presence and the certainty of your promises.

As we enter with you into the turbulence this Holy Week, strengthen us all with fortitude, gratitude and the assurance that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from your love.

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

ACT OF SPIRITUAL RECEPTION

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior 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.

Taking our palm cross in hand we pray

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.**

Blessing

So as we walk with Jesus through this day and this week
May his love draw us ever closer to him
May his power strengthen us when we grow weary or slack
And so may his joy come to fill our souls.
And the blessing of God almighty
Who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Rest upon us and remain with us
This day and always. Amen.

So wherever we are, may we proceed in peace
to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The winged-squadrons 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
expects 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.

