

Journeying with Jesus in Holy Week

Palm Sunday ~ 5th April 2020

Entering Jerusalem with Jesus ..

Preparation – The Lord welcomes us

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

I as Chaplain welcome you to the fourth St George's Barcelona and Andorra Virtual Church Service. We are beginning Holy Week together in spirit as the community of Christ ... our worship is to be in spirit and truth. One notice is that the Annual Church Meeting was due at the end of this month but the Diocese is permitting churches to postpone it so this Council will be continuing longer than normal! May I introduce to you the wording of our new prayer for St George's. I thank the Council for their work on this.

So, let us pray:

Our Father, as individuals and as a community may we come to know and love you more and more, may we feel your love and care through each other, may we be witnesses to Christ wherever we are, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be attentive to you, to our neighbour and to your world.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing 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.

If you have Palm Crosses or Branches, then hold them up as we pray this prayer:

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;

♪ **SONG OF ENTRY** ♪ **I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart**

*(Why not join us in singing along to YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyDmxtdBxlg>
You may have to remove the advert at the beginning. The lyrics are not on the screen, but here they are:*

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart

I will enter His courts with praise

I will say this is the day that the Lord has made

I will rejoice for He has made me glad

He has made me glad, He has made me glad

I will rejoice...

PREPARATION

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

All and also with you.

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.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

♪ **SONG PARTICULARLY FOR THE YOUNGER SUNDAY SCHOOL – but a truth for all of us** ♪

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-ryg9plBM4>

SAYING SORRY

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

a time of silence is kept and then:

Lord, forgive us. Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, forgive us.

ABSOLUTION *is pronounced and all respond:*

The Lord enrich *you* with his grace, and nourish *you* with his blessing; the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil; the Lord accept *your* prayers, and absolve *you* from *your* offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

✠ **THE GOSPEL** Hear the Gospel of the Lord according to St Matthew, *Glory to you O Lord*

Matthew 21:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, ‘**Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.**’ ³ **If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.**’ ⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵ **‘Say to Daughter Zion, “See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”’** ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, **‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’** ¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, **‘Who is this?’** ¹¹ The crowds answered, **‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’**

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Praise you O Christ

PROCESSION

✠ **Normally, we process with the children leading the way whilst we sing. If you want some fun, walk up and down the room singing with us the song **Hosanna, hosanna****

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG5y_Gd3oZc

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. Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah. Let us go forth in peace.

Hosanna in the Highest. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

AFTER THE PROCESSION we sing as we settle ourselves:

You are the king of glory, You are the Prince of Peace, You are the Lord of heaven and earth https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIXfvEA_Ysg

THE COLLECT *Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory:*

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.

PSALM 118: 1-2 & 19-29 *Perhaps you could say this antiphonally as in church – taking turns*

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

² Let Israel say: 'His love endures for ever.'

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

²⁵ LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.^[a]

²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

SERMON

✠ Palm Sunday is a day of great celebration. On this day, Jesus entered Jerusalem as its king while thousands rejoiced. Christ did not enter the holy city Jerusalem on the back of a war horse, but humbly and on a donkey. Within a week, he would be dead, and his followers would be confused and scattered. But now there was a lot of hope.

✠ It is essentially a simple story but very dramatic. The popular hope was that the Messiah, the Christ, must surely now set us free from Roman tyranny. Surely, he is going to restore Israel's glory and David's kingdom. No wonder they were enthusiastic. They were just hoping for the wrong thing. This week was going to be a big surprise, that the journey as Messiah to kingship would not be the easy way of power but the dark way of suffering and humiliation.

✠ But they didn't know that and at this stage their hope was in Christ ... so they shouted the famous word, "**Hosanna!**" The English word "hosanna" is defined in English dictionaries as "an exclamation of praise, acclamation or adoration." It is used 6 times in the Bible: in Matthew 21:9, 9, 15, Mark 11:9, 10 and John 12:13. The Hebrew means '**save us now**'. Although not used in the OT, it was a Jewish word. It was used of the branches carried in procession in the Feast of Tabernacles when Israel returned – as they still do – to live in a sort of tent to remember their time in the desert..

✠ It is thought that the word **Hosanna** originated from two Hebrew words in **Psalms 118:25**, that we read today. This Psalm was recited daily during the Feast of the Tabernacles. **Hosanna** comes from : "**O Lord, save us now; O Lord, give us success. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**" The Hebrew for **save us now hoshi'a na** was repeated so frequently that it became abbreviated into **hosanna** – it is both a prayer and a cry of praise. They thought that Jesus would save them now – and he was to, just not in the way they thought.

✠ We also know how fickle the crowds would be – and that this multitude of people praising him would run away .. and perhaps some would even deny him.

✠ **There is a Challenge in this for us:** They may have misunderstood what it was going to be all about , but at least they were excited about Jesus – Am I as enthusiastic about him? What about him excites me? Let us use this very different Holy Week to think about Christ and our relationship with him. How different cultures express enthusiasm varies –the church of God is international and we should rejoice in him being praised an a myriad of different ways around the world.

✠ **A prayer**

Jesus our Saviour, the path that we intend to follow was marked by your sweat and blood; it saw you despised and rejected. Give all who walk this road the spirit of true sorrow for sins, and help us to bear with courage and patience all the crosses and humiliations in the pilgrimage of life, knowing that we are following you.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. May we love you without ceasing, and make it our delight to do your most holy will.

✠ **Conclusion:** hosanna, cry, outcry, call, yell, shout,: Christ Triumphant: Hosanna: Lord, save us now! With that cry we go into Holy Week.

CREED

✠ Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

<p>Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.</p>	<p>Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.</p>
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A TIME OF PRAYER 🎵 *O Lord, hear my prayer* 🎵 *may be sung*

Let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our Prayer*

Our Lord Jesus Christ humbled himself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow him and to proclaim him as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father.

The path that Jesus our Saviour intended to follow was marked by sweat and blood; it saw him despised and rejected. Give all who walk this road with him the spirit of true sorrow for sins, and help us to bear with courage and patience all the crosses and humiliations in the pilgrimage of life, knowing that we are following him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. May we love you without ceasing, and make it our delight to do your most holy will.

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our Prayer*

We pray O Lord for those are feeling the present isolation a time of darkness and agony,
may they find support and encouragement,

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our Prayer*

We pray O Lord for those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, or who feel
that God is far from them,

Lord, in your mercy *Hear our Prayer*

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.

Lord, have mercy.

Holy God,

holy and strong,

holy and immortal,

have mercy upon us.

**Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.**

A Prayer from the Church of England

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. *(Short Silence)* **Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we commend into your hands those who have departed this life. You gave them breath and loved them through their journey of life. Receive them now at the end of that journey into your eternal presence and may they rest in everlasting peace. *(Short Silence)* **Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Everlasting God, in so many ways you have taught us that you alone can be trusted, even when it might seem that you are far away from us. Help us to remember this fact and feel your loving presence as we go from this time of worship and return to our everyday lives walking obediently in the light of your truth in all that we do this and every day.

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

Chaplain Almighty and everlasting God,
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer:
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble,
and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

Holy Communion – The Lord feeds us

THE PEACE

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **All** and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN AS WE OFFER OURSELVES TO THE LORD AS WE COME TO HIS TABLE

- Normally the gifts of the people are gathered at this time. During this seclusion our giving can be via the Website or by Standing Order and information on this is also on the website. St George's needs you ongoing support as our costs continue even when we cannot have services here).

OFFERTORY HYMN *My song is love unknown*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaR4DSjBLO4>

My song is love unknown,	My Savior's love to me;	Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.	O who am I,	That for my sake
My Lord should take	Frail flesh, and die?	

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER – # G (there are 8 in total in Common Worship, our Prayer Book)

The Lord is here	His presence is with us
Lift up your hearts.	We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	It is right to give thanks and praise.

And now we give you thanks because, for our salvation,
he was obedient even to death on the cross.

The tree of shame was made the tree of glory;
and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and *saying*:

**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.]

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour,
born of Mary, to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.

He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:

**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:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit

**as we bring before you these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.**

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.

THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

*We share together in the communion wherever we are:
the body of Christ given for you, the blood of Christ shed for you*

PRAYER 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.

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 for ever. Amen.

All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

And so we say again: **Hosanna in the Highest. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

🎵 **HYMN** 🎵 Our final hymn sends us out to serve Christ with a note of reflection on Jesus Christ our Lord: We are ready to go on this week's journey with Jesus in Holy Week, and we sing a song of praise : **Meekness and Majesty** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXggFYQQTJO>

Meekness and majesty manhood and deity
In perfect harmony the Man who is God
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity
Kneels in humility and washes our feet
O what a mystery meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship for this is your God
This is your God

The Dismissal – The Lord sends us out

BLESSING

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

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.

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

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

All Amen.

✠ **Conclusion:** With the cry of Hosanna we go into Holy Week, as we identify with Jesus our Lord.

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord, **In the name of Christ. Amen**

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