

# Morning Prayer

*Sunday, April 5, 2020 – The Sunday of the Passion  
with the Liturgy of the Palms*

**Officiant: The Rev'd Benjamin Gillard**  
**Preacher: The Rev'd Dr. Harold Shepherd**  
**Director of Music: Damien Macedo**

**Prelude**      **Choral Prelude on Rockingham, Healey Willan**

## The Liturgy of the Palms

*Officiant*      Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
*People*          **Hosanna in the highest.**

*Officiant*      O Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you give us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11**

*Reader*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Reader*      The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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 fulfill 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.”

*Reader* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Officiant* It is right to praise you, almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest. May we also go forth to meet Christ and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Hymn: *All Glory, Laud, and Honour***

**Refrain** All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosanas 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 we with all creation in chorus 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**

### **The Collect**

*Officiant* Let us pray. Almighty God, whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory, may we, walking in the way of the cross, find it is for us the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Epistle Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

*Reader* A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.  
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 31:9-16

*Please join on the even (bolded) verses of the psalm.*

9. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;  
my eye wastes away from grief,  
my soul and body also.
10. **For my life is spent with sorrow,  
and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my misery,  
and my bones waste away.**
11. I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
a horror to my neighbors,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.
12. **I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.**
13. For I hear the whispering of many—  
terror all around!—  
as they scheme together against me,  
as they plot to take my life.
14. **But I trust in you, O Lord;  
I say, "You are my God."**

15. My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
16. **Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.**
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 27:11-54

*Reader* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Reader* The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple

and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

*Reader*        The Gospel of Christ.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

The Rev'd Harold Shepherd

### **The Apostles' Creed**

*All*            I believe in God,  
                  **the Father almighty,**  
                  **creator of heaven and earth.**  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Intercessions and Prayers

### Intercessions

*Leader* Let us pray to the Lord, who is our refuge and stronghold, saying, Lord, hear our prayer. For the health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry:

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability:

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For our homes and families, our schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress:

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* For a blessing on our local community, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for:

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* I invite you now to offer your own petitions to God.

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. Merciful Father,

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

### The Collect

*Officiant* Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, in tender love for all our human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross. May we follow the example of his great humility, and share in the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

*Officiant* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*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.**

**Doxology**

*Officiant*  
*All*

Glory to God,  
whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**Blessing**

*Officiant*

May the God of mercy transform you by his grace, and the blessing of God  
almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with  
you always. Amen.

**Hymn: *Ride On, Ride On, In Majesty***

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark! all the tribes "Hosana" 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 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 night:  
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.

**Dismissal**

*Officiant*  
*People*

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**