



Palm Sunday

Year B

Opening Sentence

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.

In the name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

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

All and also with you.

My friends, 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 spirit 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.

The Blessing of Palms

People are invited to raise their palm crosses for blessing:

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.

The Gospel of Triumphant Entry (Mark 11:1-11)

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 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. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!

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.

Hymn

*All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

**Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's Name comest,
the King and Blessed One:**

**The company of angels
are praising thee on high;
and mortal men and all things
created make reply:**

**The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present:**

**To thee before thy passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise:**

**Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King:**

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.

The Ministry of the Word

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

New Testament reading: Philippians 2:5-11

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.

At the end of each reading:

For the word of the Lord,

All thanks be to God.

The Passion Gospel Mark 15:1-47

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.

At the announcement:

Hear the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' 3Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' 5But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

6 Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. 7Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. 8So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. 9Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' 10For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. 11But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. 12Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' 13They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' 14Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' 15So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

16 Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. 17And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. 18And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' 19They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. 20After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

21 They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. 22Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). 23And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. 24And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

25 It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. 26The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' 27And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. 29Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30save yourself, and come down from the cross!' 31In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. 32Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

33 When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' 35When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' 36And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' 37Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

40 There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. 41These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in

Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

42 When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44 Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. 45 When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. 46 Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

Palm Sunday Litany

Let us stand with Christ in his suffering.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin
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 through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice 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 to work openly
for justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
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.**

Hymn

Lord of all, we seek your blessing
as we move on in this space.
Lead us onwards to your Passion
keep us always in your grace.
We today who sang, 'Hosanna!',
named you as our Lord and King;
through this week, keep us forever
in the shelter of your wing.

Friends with whom you shared your table
sold your life and ran away.
Left you in the hands of sinners
others shouted, 'Crucify!'
Make us sharers in your story,
ever onwards to the end.
Fill our hearts with your compassion
when our hearts elsewhere might tend.

In the days that lie before us
sin will show its darkest face.
Lack of justice, anger, hatred,
all will build at frightening pace.
As we stand beneath your Cross, Lord,
keep us ever in your sight.
Bring us through the Tomb's dark doorway
to your Resurrection light.

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.

Liturgy for Palm Sunday

God our Father, this day we give you thanks
because, for our salvation,
Jesus 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.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love
and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Having left us a way to remember him
he gave himself up to death,
he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

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.

✠ Send your Spirit on us now
that we may feed on you in our hearts
by faith, with thanksgiving.

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

Silence may be kept, before the president continues with the Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done;
in 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.**

Hymn – How deep the Father’s love (Stuart Townend)

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.

Material in this booklet is drawn from Common Worship, Times and Seasons (Lent, Holy Week and Easter) and New Patterns for Worship, © The Archbishop’s Council, 2000

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