

MORNING LITURGY

Hymn

Greeting: Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion, meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass.

Ride on in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice.

Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever; and the sceptre of, your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.

You have loved righteousness and hated evil: therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Dear friends 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 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.

Confession, Absolution – BCPp101/37LP

Jubilate p104 chant 50

OT Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalm 24

NT Lesson: Matthew 21:1-11

Benedictus p107 Chant111

Apostles' Creed & Collects p112/48

Hymn

Prayers:

We pray for the Church:

Loving Father, we pray for the church as it joins in the joy of Palm Sunday celebrations at home and abroad. Remind us that as we share in the victory of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, so we must be prepared to share his suffering and his death... Help us to appreciate all that He has done for us and keep us faithful at all times;

Lord in Your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the world:

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Look O Lord upon your world which you loved so much that you sent your own dear son to save humanity from the power of sin and Satan. The world is so similar in so many ways to the world of that first Palm Sunday... Enable your people everywhere to have a true welcome for Jesus in their hearts and in their homes:

Lord in Your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for our community:

We pray for our land and our locality with all its varied needs... We pray for all who serve in positions of responsibility and authority... May we all be led in the way of peace - as we follow the way of the Cross;

Lord in Your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need:

We pray for the suffering, and for all who are in special need - for those who have their own cross in life to bear... We recall the experiences of Jesus in Jerusalem during Holy Week... alone and frightened.... despised and rejected... suffering and dying.... May we all come to know the joy of his victory in the midst of pain and suffering, and rest secure in his loving care;

Lord in Your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Grace

Hymn

Sermon

Offering Hymn

Blessing

Hymn

PRAYERS

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. On this day Jesus entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. [\(BCP\)](#)

LORD and Father of mankind, we thank Thee for the remembrance of Palm Sunday, with all its glad rejoicing; and we realise that though the troubles of life are many, again and

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again the sunshine of Thy Love is shown to encourage and cheer us on our upward way. Grant that when the brightness of earthly life seems overshadowed, we may never forget that Divine Power is being built up, so that we may take the next stage of experience with unflinching steps. Help us to meet the sorrows of tomorrow with a valiant heart, knowing that if the day-time of life is followed by the shadows of night, the dawn will surely come, revealing that one more lesson has been learnt. And because experience has been made our own, we know that with faith we can offer guidance and help to others who are passing through the night-time of physical life. Help us, O Christ, to show something of Thy patience and endurance. Amen.

Short Palm Sunday Prayer

Almighty God, on this day, your son Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread garments and palm branches along his way. Let those branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our Lord, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life. In his name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

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

Palm Sunday Blessing (Book of Common Worship)--*palm branches required*

C: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

C: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way.

Let these branches 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 lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer for a Walk in Christ's Passion.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever

and ever. *Amen.*

Closing prayer

Almighty God, your Son came to us humbly on a donkey's back and now he sits exalted by your right hand. As we enter into Holy Week contemplating your his path of suffering, help us to become loyal and steadfast disciples, that we may always hear his word, follow his teachings, and live in his Spirit. And prepare our hearts for that day when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord and King, to your eternal glory. Amen.

Closing prayer

Great God, we come today to gather and scatter these branches of blessings. With them we remember Jesus' joyous ride into Jerusalem, where the hope of the many were gathered and lifted high. Like those bearing the palms from so long ago, we are gathered in celebration and rejoicing, eager to greet the One who saves. Bless these palms of remembrance and glory. Bless our hearts as we relive the story. And as those who cast their palms and their dreams before a triumphant Christ, may we lay down our lives before You, so that our days would be your pathway and our hearts, your open door.

SERMON OUTLINES

Matt 21:1-11 When they had come near Jerusalem (Palm Sunday A)

It was a special day for Jesus – full of significance for the Jews as the group approached the city.. There is always something magical about standing on Mt Scopus & looking across the Kidron Valley at the city below.. One's thoughts always turn to the Triumphal Entry of Jesus on Palm Sunday..

- 1. The Colt** - as Jesus direct 2 disciples: *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.* The colt unknowingly was to be part of the entourage of Jesus as he entered the city – riding in humble majesty. A king on a donkey was a sign of peace - & by such means Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 9.9:- *5'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, & mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'*
- 2. The Crowd** - assembling in the city for the Passover - always drew huge crowds to Jerusalem... Every male Jew within 20 miles had to attend... Note how they greeted him: *spread their cloaks on the road, v8 & others cut branches from the trees & spread them on the road* – a right royal reception for the king!
- 3. The Cry** - *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! (Ps*

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118) *Hosanna in the highest heaven!* Here indeed was the Messiah – come to save his people – God’s Redeemer-Son – cause for rejoicing & praise! There was great excitement and expectation among the crowds *the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’*
11The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’ - and much more – Saviour of the world!

Matt 21:1-11 When they had come near Jerusalem...

- exciting times – high drama for the disciples... Passover always drew huge crowds to Jerusalem... Every male Jew within 20 miles had to attend... Josephus numbered 250,000 slain lambs – minimum 10 people at a meal = 2.5M worshippers! (W. Barclay)

1. Expectation - in Jewish minds of the coming of the promised Messiah. Jesus here fulfils Zechariah 9.9: *Look, your king is coming to you, humble & mounted on a donkey & on a colt, the foal of a donkey* – symbolic of his coming in peace!

2. Jubilation – the welcome of the crowds – *spread their cloaks on the road & others cut palm branches & spread them on the road* v8... There are marked similarities to the welcome given to **Judas Maccabaeus** in 175BC after his victory over **Antiochus Epiphanes** who had defiled the Temple: *They bare branches & fair boughs & palms also & sang psalms unto Him that had given them good success in cleansing His place* (2 Macc 10.1)

3. Salutation: *Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!* (**Ps 118.25**) = “Save now” – cry for deliverance in time of trouble – not just a joyful greeting!
Matthew sees it as the heartfelt cry of the populace to their Saviour King! Such should be the cry still of his people today to Christ the Saviour!
- *Morning Liturgy and Sermon outlines by Norman Porteous*

SERMONS ONLINE SOURCES

The Archbishop of Canterbury - at St George’s Jerusalem in 2003

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/1950>

Franciscan Anglican - good basic teaching sermon, parts of which could be adapted for use with children.

<http://all-creation.franciscan-anglican.com/donkey.htm>

Pastor Bob of Cornwall - a Disciples of Christ Minister. Major points - Standing firm on God’s three gifts through Jesus. Good use of Charlie brown illustration.

<http://pastorbobcornwall.blogspot.com/2009/04/standing-firm-palm-sunday-sermon.html>