

Our Service Together



An Acclamation for the Season

All: 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!

Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's
holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to
you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us
our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his
kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

The Psalmody Psalm 118.1-2 and 19-29 *We say the psalm aloud*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.
Let Israel now proclaim, 'His mercy endures for ever.'

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have become my salvation.
The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
Come, O Lord, and save us we pray. Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.
The Lord is God; he has given us light; link the pilgrims with cords right to the horns of the altar.
You are my God and I will thank you; you are my God and I will exalt you.
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Gospel Luke 19.28-40

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' ³⁴ They said, 'The Lord needs it.' ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of

Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!'

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' ⁴⁰ He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

at the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A Reflection for the day

'Hosanna, Hosanna', the people cried; but there is more to see here than the crowds, for all of creation joins together in celebrating God's Messiah and his arrival in Jerusalem.

Worship is at the heart of our faith; the worship of the one God with our whole heart, mind, soul and resource. Today we see worship of God in many forms, and its rejection also!

The obvious worshippers are the crowd, predominantly the poor and the marginalized in society. If they had not followed Jesus from elsewhere to Jerusalem they are folks who were there already, some pilgrims as Passover approached, others probably residents. Whoever they are, in this moment they worship God whole heartedly. They sing and chant and make public and open announcements about the kingdom of God; whilst Luke does not include the nationalist symbol of the palm branches there is no ducking away from there being both a clash of societies and also a clash of politics here!

Look how the people worship in song, dance, and celebration, yes – and more, they spread their wealth before Jesus as an act of worship; sacrificially! The cloaks and robes would have been both their protection from the elements and often the bedding pillow if you were poor. In placing them on the road, to be trampled on, there is a statement of humility before God, there is a statement of dependence on God's providence, there is a generosity – this is not a 'what I have I give in worship' type action, it is not even a 10% tithe, this was 50% of their resource!

This is also worship with no concern for what others might think; as King David did himself. And others do have an opinion, and express it - 'tell them to be silent!', say some Pharisees in the crowd. If they were to be silent, Jesus says, the rest of creation would cry out in worship for what God was undertaking in Jesus. And what is it Jesus is undertaking? Surely, in following the will of the Father he is engaged in worship, complete worship of heart, mind soul and resource; all and everything!

We dare not forget the donkey on Palm Sunday and think on what this animal brings to the story and our reflections today. Jesus could have walked in but no king would have done that, they would have been carried or ridden in triumphantly. To do so a horse would have been used; almost certainly Pilate would have arrived on horseback, with trumpets sounding and people expected to cheer him. Jesus does not arrive as an 'over lord', he comes as a servant, in humility and riding on a donkey enables him to point us to the heart of all worship, humble servanthood!

One other thing the donkey's presence does reveal is the offering in worship of the hidden owner who, whether there has been an agreement with Jesus or not, gifts his donkey willingly on hearing it is the 'master' who requires it. Not so much *mi casa, su casa*, but maybe 'all things come from you and of your own do I give to you'!

Palm Sunday welcomes us into a celebratory time of worship, with palm cross waving and hymn singing. It also, as we step into the fullness of Holy week and Easter it welcomes us to continue our Lenten journey and to reflect on the heart of our worship and how we express that in each day – heart, mind, soul and resources.

The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers *We make our intercessions*

God of truth, we pray for all whom you call to the task of being prophets.

To those crying for justice in a world controlled by material profit.
Holy God bring strength and perseverance.

To those imprisoned for having dared to challenge the powers,
Holy God bring courage and hope.

To those vilified or misunderstood for threatening closely held assumptions,
Holy God, bring wisdom and determination.

To those ridiculed or ignored for speaking peace in the midst of violence,
Holy God, bring a sense of your Kingdom.

And to your Church, unsure how to speak and be heard, but struggling to find a prophetic voice;
Holy God, bring faith and confidence that comes from confessing Christ as Lord, Amen.

The Collect

All: 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.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.

A prayer as we enter Holy Week

Lord, take our hearts as yours. Fill them with your joy, fill them with your passion for this world, fill them with your purpose.

Jesus may we be ready to walk your way, follow with our cross, be your friends, be your servants. Amen

The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me; Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me. Amen.