

The Solemn Liturgy of

✠ PALM SUNDAY ✠

THE SERVICE OF PALMS
& HOLY COMMUNION

WELCOME

We're glad that you are here in God's house. This booklet contains everything you need to follow the service. If Anglican worship is unfamiliar to you, that's okay. Prioritize taking it all in with an open heart. Children of all ages are welcome at Christ Church. They are treasures from God. Feel free to move around the church during the service, if that's helpful for keeping your children engaged.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Today is Palm Sunday, when we commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the Sunday before his passion, death, and resurrection. The crowds received him with joy and celebration, spreading a carpet of palm branches before him and acknowledging that he was the Messiah, the prophesied Saviour of Israel. But within the week, the religious authorities would infiltrate his community, arrest him, try him in secret, and put pressure on the Roman governor to execute him. They objected to his blasphemous claims, not only to be the Messiah, but especially to be the Son of God. This service therefore has two aspects. We begin in a jubilant tone, singing praise to Christ as to a king. But then we celebrate the first passion liturgy of Holy Week, of which the centrepiece is the reading of St Matthew's account of Jesus' suffering and death. The passion stories are the focus of our meditation in Holy Week, and they are read in order beginning on Palm Sunday and continuing until Good Friday.

One of the ways we enter the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection is by re-enactment. Today we will re-enact Christ's Triumphal entry. On Maundy Thursday we will re-enact Christ's celebration his Last Supper, when he washed his disciples' feet, instituted the Holy Eucharist, and then went to the garden to pray, where he was betrayed by Judas. On Good Friday we will gaze on Jesus' cross, and on Easter Day the lighting of the Paschal Candle will represent the light of Christ's resurrection which drives back the darkness of death.

OPENING RESPONSE

Priest Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.

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

HYMN

All Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes “Hosanna” 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 nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits 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.

BLESSING OF PALMS

Priest Let us pray.

We 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 hailed as King by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Sanctify † these branches with your blessing, we humbly pray, that they may be for us signs of his victory. 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 with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

¶ *Then the priest sprinkles the palms with holy water and says quietly,*

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

¶ *While the choir sings the following psalm (118:19–29), the priest distributes the palms to the people.*

Choir Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

“This is the gate of the LORD;
he who is righteous may enter.”

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD'S doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

On this day the LORD has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosannah, LORD, hosannah!
Lord, send us now success.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

God is the LORD; he has shined upon us;
form a procession with branches up to the horns
of the altar.

“You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”

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 will be
forever. Amen.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

PALM GOSPEL

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Saint Matthew.

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

¶ *Then the Priest reads Matthew 21:1-13.*

Priest The Gospel of Christ.

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

PROCESSION

¶ *The priest and other ministers then process around the church while the following hymn is sung. The priest carries a vessel containing the bread which will be consecrated on Maundy Thursday and received on Good Friday.*

All Refrain: 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. (*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*)

INTROIT PSALM (22:1-10)

Cantor My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

People **and are so far from my cry and from the words
of my distress?**

etc. O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not
answer; **by night as well, but I find no rest.**

Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

Our forefathers put their trust in you;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

But as for me, I am a worm and no man,
scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
“He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”

Yet you are he who took me out of the womb,
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
**you were my God when I was still in my
mother’s womb.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be
forever. Amen.**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
**and are so far from my cry and from the words
of my distress?**

¶ *Toward the end of the psalm, the priest says the Lord’s
Prayer quietly.*

ENTRANCE

Priest † Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Amen.

All **Almighty God,**
to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PENITENTIAL RITE

Priest Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these, your laws, in our hearts, we beseech you.**

All **Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us. (Thrice)**

Minister Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

¶ *Please kneel, if you are able.*

All **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker and judge of us all: We acknowledge and lament our many sins and offenses, which we have committed by thought, word, and deed against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your righteous anger against us. We are deeply sorry for these our transgressions; the burden of them is more than we can bear. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may evermore serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Priest **Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, + pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Minister Hear what comforting words our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Hear also what Saint Paul says: This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Hear also what Saint John says: If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the propitiation for our sins.

COLLECT

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love for us you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon himself our nature, and to suffer death upon the Cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers 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.**

LESSON

¶ *Please be seated.*

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
(49:1–9).

¶ *After the reading, the reader and people say,*

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM (22:11–20)

Reader Be not far from me, for trouble is near,

People **and there is none to help.**

etc. Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

They open wide their jaws at me,
like a ravening and a roaring lion.

I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of
joint; **my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

Packs of dogs close me in,
and gangs of evildoers circle around me;
they pierce my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing.

Be not far away, O LORD;
you are my strength; hasten to help me.

Save me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth,
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

EPISTLE

Reader A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the
Apostle to the Philippians (2:5–11).

¶ *After the reading, the reader and people say,*

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People Thanks be to God.

PASSION

¶ *Please stand.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to
Saint Matthew.

¶ *The people do not say the customary response.*

The Priest reads Matthew 27:1–54.

SERMON

¶ *Please be seated after the priest makes the sign of the cross.*

CREED

¶ *Please stand.*

Priest Now let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess God the Holy Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN

¶ *The priest prepares the gifts of bread and wine while the following hymn is sung and the financial offering is collected.*

All

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?
He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow,
but all made strange,
and none the longed-for Christ would know;
but O my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend.

Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and ‘gainst him rise.

They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine!
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

INTERCESSION

¶ *The priest brings the bread and wine into the midst of the people, so that they can be presented at the altar along with the people's prayers.*

¶ *The priest bids the people to pray. Then the minister reads several petitions, and after each one the priest and people respond,*

Priest Let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Priest Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord.

People **And of your own have we given you.**

THANKSGIVING

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is right and just so to do.**

Priest It is truly right and just, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, both God and man; who humbled himself, even to death upon the cross for us sinners; who lay in darkness and the shadow of death; that he might make us the children of God, and exalt us to everlasting life.

Therefore, with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and saying,

All **Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.**

† Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Priest Blessing and glory and thanksgiving are yours ...

¶ *The priest continues the prayer, which concludes,*

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Priest And now as our Savior Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.**

PEACE

Priest Once we were far off, but now in 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.

People **And also with you.**

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

¶ *Please kneel, if you are able.*

All We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Priest O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world:

People **Have mercy upon us.**

etc. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: **Grant us thy peace.**

HOLY COMMUNION

¶ *Then the priest and minister distribute Holy Communion at the altar rail.*

¶ *Everyone is welcome to approach the altar—believers and non-believers, and members of all denominations. Holy Communion is about renewing our participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus which we initiate in baptism and continue by faith. We ask that, if you have not been baptized or if you do not believe in Christ, you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would prefer to receive a blessing rather than the Body and Blood of Christ.*

HYMN

All Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me.
And that thou bid'st me come to thee,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fighting and fears within without,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am— thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down—
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God ...

¶ *The priest continues the prayer, which concludes,*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you
and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now
and for ever. ***Amen.***

BLESSING

Priest The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and
love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and
remain with you always. ***Amen.***

DISMISSAL

¶ *Parish and community notices are given, then the minister dismisses the people.*

Minister Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

All Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
Even though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song would be:

*Nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.*

Though, like a wanderer, the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone,
yet in my dreams I'd be: (*Refrain*)

There let the way appear, steps up to heaven;
all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
angels to beckon me: (*Refrain*)

Then with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise,
out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise,
so by my woes to be: (*Refrain*)

Or if on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upwards I fly,
still all my song shall be: (*Refrain*)

UPCOMING HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Thursday, 7:00 PM	<i>The Last Supper</i>
Friday, 12:00 PM	The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday
Sunday, 7:00 AM	The Vigil of Easter (Sunrise Service)
Sunday, 8:00 AM	<i>Easter Breakfast</i>
Sunday, 10:30 AM	<i>Easter Communion</i>

