

The Bride Valley Telephone Service for 2nd April

Palm Sunday Service of Songs of Praise

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Hymn All glory, laud and honour

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

1 Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and blessed one:

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

Theodulf of Orleans (c.750-821) translated by John M Neale (1818-1866) (Public Domain)

The Liturgy of the Palms

The people hold up their palms while the Minister says this prayer:

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. **Amen**

The Palm Gospel Matthew 21: 1 – 11

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 fulfil 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.'

This is the Gospel of Christ.

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.

The Collect for Palm Sunday

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. **Amen.**

Hymn Ride on ride on in majesty

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry.
Thy humble beast pursues his road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

2 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.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
the wingèd squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The last and fiercest strife is nigh:
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.

5 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.

Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868) (Public Domain)

The Passion Gospel Matthew 27: 1 – 2, 11 – 23

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. ...

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 judgement 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!'

Silence

Matthew 27: 24 – 44

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 criminals 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 criminals who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

Hymn My song is Love unknown

1 My song is love unknown,
My Saviour'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?

2 He came from His blest throne
salvation to bestow;
but men 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.
Samuel Crossman (1623-1683) (Public Domain)

Matthew 27: 45 – 61

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, 'Eloi, Eloi, 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!'

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Intercessory Prayers adapted from Susan Sayers

Jesus rides into Jerusalem cheered by the crowds. Days later crowds will be clamouring for his death.

As we recall the extent of God's love for us, let us pray:

Father, if we as the Church are truly to be the body of Christ, then let us stand at the foot of the cross and learn what it means to love and keep on loving; to serve and keep on serving. *Silence*

God our Father: **let your will be done in us.**

If the world is ever to see real hope, then purify and transform our lives and stretch out our arms in loving forgiveness, with no exceptions and no small print, so that we shine as lights in the darkness. *Silence*

God our Father: **let your will be done in us.**

If our work places and neighbourhoods and homes are to display and respond to your values, then make us more fervent in prayer, more courageous in self-discipline and, above all, more loving in outreach. *Silence*

Silence

God our Father: **let your will be done in us.**

If the terrible suffering of extreme poverty, injustice and oppression is to be addressed realistically, then take away our greed and complacency and our assumptions about appropriate living standards, and teach us sacrificial self-giving of time, energy and resources. *Silence*

God our Father: **let your will be done in us.**

Father, through the life-giving death of Jesus, may the dying turn to you and know your merciful love; may the grieving be comforted and may we all one day share with those who have died the eternal joy of your heaven. *Silence*

God our Father: **let your will be done in us.**

Father, such amazing love is hard to grasp and impossible to repay. In thankfulness for lives set free to live we offer you ourselves, our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice for you. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us so we pray -

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn There is a green hill

1 There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

2 We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

3 He died that we might be forgiven,
he died to make us good,

that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.

4 There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.

5 O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895) (Public Domain)

Collect for Holy Week

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in becoming the servant of all and in obedience died on the Cross for our salvation: give us the courage to follow you in your way of the Cross and the Spirit's grace to proclaim you as Lord and King of all, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Blessing

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always **Amen**