

## **A Service of the Word for Palm Sunday**

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

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*cf Romans 5.8*

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore to us the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Collect**

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.

*As the crowds on Palm Sunday greeted Jesus as their king, we now say the Gloria*  
**Gloria in Excelsis**

**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.**

## Reading Isaiah 50.4-9a

The servant of the LORD said:

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>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.

## Psalm 118.1-2,19-24

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; ♦ his mercy endures for ever.

2 **Let Israel now proclaim, ♦ ‘His mercy endures for ever.’**

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, ♦  
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

20 **This is the gate of the Lord; ♦ the righteous shall enter through it.**

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

22 **The stone which the builders rejected ♦ has become the chief  
cornerstone.**

23 This is the Lord’s doing, ♦ and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 **This is the day that the Lord has made; ♦ we will rejoice and be glad in  
it.**

## Kyrie Eleison

*Lord the crowds call out to you as their king and Lord, but so quickly their support and love disappeared, and you were left to face the unimaginable pain alone.*

*Lord forgive us, we did not know what we were doing.*

Lord, have mercy.      **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.      **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.      **Lord, have mercy.**

## COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD’S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

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 Lord be with you     **and also with you.**

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.

*The people hold up their palms while this prayer is said.*

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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 21 verses 1-11

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Jesus and his disciples were nearing Jerusalem; and when they reached Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of them with these instructions: 'Go to the village opposite, where you will at once find a donkey tethered with her foal beside her; untie them, and bring them to me. If anyone speaks to you, say, "Our Master needs them"; and he will let you take them at once.' This was to fulfil the prophecy which says, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, "Here is your king, who comes to you in gentleness, riding on an ass, riding on the foal of a beast of burden."'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed, and brought the donkey and her foal; they laid their cloaks on them and Jesus mounted. Crowds of people carpeted the road with their cloaks, and some cut branches from the trees to spread in his path. Then the crowd that went ahead and the others that came behind raised the shout: 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the heavens!'

When he entered Jerusalem the whole city went wild with excitement. 'Who is this?' people asked, and the crowd replied, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## **The Creed**

**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 of Intercession**

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

*At the end* Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Closing Prayer**

Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.**

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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## The Passion according to Mark 14.1-15.47

<sup>1</sup>It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; <sup>2</sup>for they said, 'Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.'

<sup>3</sup>While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. <sup>4</sup>But some were there who said to one another in anger, 'Why was the ointment wasted in this way? <sup>5</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.' And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup>But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>7</sup>For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. <sup>9</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'

<sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. <sup>11</sup>When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

<sup>12</sup>On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' <sup>13</sup>So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, <sup>14</sup>say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' <sup>15</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.' <sup>16</sup>So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>17</sup>When it was evening, he came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup>And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.' <sup>19</sup>They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, 'Surely, not I?' <sup>20</sup>He said to them, 'It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. <sup>21</sup>For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.'

<sup>22</sup>While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' <sup>23</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. <sup>24</sup>He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup>Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

<sup>26</sup>When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>27</sup>And Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters; for it is written,

“I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”

<sup>28</sup>But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.’ <sup>29</sup>Peter said to him, ‘Even though all become deserters, I will not.’ <sup>30</sup>Jesus said to him, ‘Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.’ <sup>31</sup>But he said vehemently, ‘Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.’ And all of them said the same.

<sup>32</sup>They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ <sup>33</sup>He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. <sup>34</sup>And said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.’ <sup>35</sup>And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>He said, ‘Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.’ <sup>37</sup>He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, ‘Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? <sup>38</sup>Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’ <sup>39</sup>And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. <sup>40</sup>And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. <sup>41</sup>He came a third time and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.’

<sup>43</sup>Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. <sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ‘The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.’ <sup>45</sup>So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, ‘Rabbi!’ and kissed him. <sup>46</sup>Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. <sup>47</sup>But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to them, ‘Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? <sup>49</sup>Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.’ <sup>50</sup>All of them deserted him and fled.

<sup>51</sup>A certain young man was following Jesus, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, <sup>52</sup>but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

<sup>53</sup>They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. <sup>54</sup>Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. <sup>56</sup>For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup>Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, <sup>58</sup>‘We heard him say, “I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.”’ <sup>59</sup>But even on this point their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup>Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, ‘Have you

no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' <sup>61</sup>But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' <sup>62</sup>Jesus said, 'I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power," and "coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

<sup>63</sup>Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'Why do we still need witnesses? <sup>64</sup>You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?' All of them condemned him as deserving death. <sup>65</sup>Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, 'Prophecy!' The guards also took him over and beat him.

<sup>66</sup>While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. <sup>67</sup>When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.' <sup>68</sup>But he denied it, saying, 'I do not know or understand what you are talking about.' And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. <sup>69</sup>And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, 'This man is one of them.' <sup>70</sup>But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.' <sup>71</sup>But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know this man you are talking about.' <sup>72</sup>At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

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

<sup>16</sup>Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>Then they brought Jesus to

the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).<sup>23</sup> And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.<sup>24</sup> And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.<sup>26</sup> The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.'<sup>27</sup> And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.<sup>29</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days,<sup>30</sup> save yourself, and come down from the cross!'<sup>31</sup> In 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.<sup>32</sup> Let 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.

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

<sup>34</sup>At 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?'<sup>35</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.'<sup>36</sup> And 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.'<sup>37</sup> Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.<sup>38</sup> And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.<sup>39</sup> Now 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!'

<sup>40</sup>There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Jesus, and Salome.

<sup>41</sup>These 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.

<sup>42</sup>When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,<sup>43</sup> 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.<sup>44</sup> Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time.<sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.<sup>46</sup> 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.<sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.