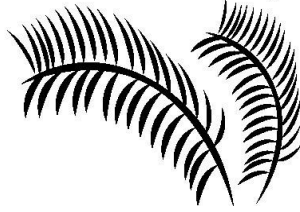


PALM SUNDAY



5 April 2020

A SHORT SERVICE TO BE USED AT HOME

Prepared by Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson

*(Where two or more people are gathered for worship the sentences in **bold type** are read by all)*

GREETING

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Friends in Christ, today we draw near to the end of our journey through Lent.

We are gathered in our homes to remember the day when Jesus entered his own city one last time to challenge its leaders with the message of God's unconditional love. We know that the message was rejected, and its bearer handed over to torture and death.

Let us, in union with our fellow pilgrims throughout the world, follow him now, moved by his sufferings and obedient to his call.

You might like to hold a 'palm branch' which you have taken from your garden.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, as we hold these branches, we joyfully acclaim Jesus our Messiah and King. May we reach one day the happiness of the new and everlasting Jerusalem by faithfully following him who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PENITENCE

On Palm Sunday, the crowds hailed Jesus as King; on Good Friday they shouted for him to die. Confessing that our faith is often shallow, we ask forgiveness for our sins.

Lord Jesus, you come to us in peace, but we find it hard to make peace with others. Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

You come to us in humility, but we like to be the centre of attention. Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy.

You come to us offering forgiveness, but we blame others for our failures. Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.

You come to us as the servant King, but we prefer to serve our own interests. **Lord, forgive us and help us.**

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

Epistle *Philippians 2: 5-11*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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’.

Recorded reflection by Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson *(attached separately to the email)*

Prayers and Thanksgivings *(These may be read privately, or you can join in prayer with Adrian by opening the prayer attachment with the email)*

PRAYERS

We pray that the Lord Jesus, who entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to cleanse and save God’s people, will today find us ready to follow him:

Lord, as you gave us an example of humble service, so guide our President, our government and all leaders to serve their people with devotion and bring peace between the nations. In these difficult times of global pandemic, help them to set priorities which promote care for the vulnerable.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, as you sacrificed your life for the world’s salvation so give strength and patience to doctors, nurses and all who make great sacrifices in their care of others.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, as you taught the people the truth about God, teach us your ways, reveal your love, and send us out with your Spirit to serve others.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, as you cleansed the Temple, so cleanse your Church today of disunity, hypocrisy and complacency. As members of different churches help us to grow closer together in a spirit of unity.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, be close to those who suffer, especially those who have contracted COVID-19, their families and friends; grant them healing, strength and encouragement.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Saviour of the world, by your agony and trial, by your cross and passion, and by your precious death and burial, **good Lord, deliver us.**

Remembering those who have died ... grant us, with them, a share in your eternal Kingdom.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as the crowds long ago welcomed you with shouts of Hosanna, we also welcome you, not with empty praise and shallow promises, but with grateful hearts that long to serve you, day by day. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**



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Common Worship: Times and Seasons © The Archbishops' Council 2006*