

A Service of
Holy Communion
for
Palm Sunday



Liturgy of the Palms

The Service of palms commemorates our Lord's entry into Jerusalem and our entry in to Holy Week with Christ. We keep the palms with which we salute him on his triumphal entry in to his Passion as a reminder that Christ's kingship was won only through suffering.

Palms are given to you as you enter Church.

Please keep ready for the Prayer of Blessing

Introduction Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: **Hosanna in the highest.**

All: The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hold up Palms for blessing

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**

Gospel Reading

ALL: **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

ALL: This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

Hymn

Liturgy of the Passion

Collect for 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,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *All* **Amen.**

A reading from the Old and New Testament follow

Hymn

The Passion Gospel (using this or an alternative form)

NARRATOR: When morning came, the chief priests and the elders of the nation met in conference to plan the death of Jesus. They then put him in chains and led him off to hand him over to Pilate, the Roman Governor.
When Judas the traitor saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse, and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders saying:

JUDAS: I have sinned. I have brought an innocent man to his death.

NARRATOR: But they said:

ALL: What is that to us? See to that yourself.

NARRATOR: So he threw the money down in the temple and left them, and went and hanged himself. Taking up the money the chief priests argued: This cannot be put in the temple fund, it is blood money. So after conferring they used the money to buy the potter's field, as a

burial place for foreigners. This explains the name Blood Acre by which the field has been known ever since. Jesus was now brought before the Governor. As he stood there the Governor asked him,

PILATE: Are you the king of the Jews?

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: The words are yours.

NARRATOR: And to the charges laid against him by the chief priests and elders he made no reply. Then Pilate said to him,

PILATE: Do you not hear all the evidence against that is brought against you?

NARRATOR: But he still refused to answer one word, to the Governor's astonishment. At the festival season it was the Governor's custom to release one prisoner chosen by the people. There was then in custody a man of some notoriety called Jesus Bar-Abbas. When they were assembled Pilate said to them

PILATE: Which would you like me to release to you - Jesus Bar-Abbas, or Jesus called Messiah?

NARRATOR: Pilate knew that it was out of spite that they had brought Jesus before him. While Pilate was sitting in the court a message came to him from his wife:

PILATE'S WIFE: Have nothing to do with that innocent man. I was much troubled on his account in my dreams last night.

NARRATOR: Meanwhile the chief priests and the elders had persuaded the crowd to ask for the release of Bar-Abbas and to have Jesus put to death. So when the Governor asked,

PILATE: Which of the two do you want me to release to you?

NARRATOR: They said,

ALL: **Bar-Abbas.**

NARRATOR: Pilate asked,

PILATE: Then what am I to do with Jesus called Messiah?

NARRATOR: With one voice they answered,

ALL: **Crucify him!**

PILATE: Why, what evil has he done?

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the louder,

ALL: **Crucify Him!**

NARRATOR: Pilate could see that nothing was being gained, and a riot was starting; so he took water and washed his hands in full view of the people saying,

PILATE: My hands are clean of this man's blood: see to that yourselves.

NARRATOR: And with one voice the people cried,

ALL: **His blood be upon us, and our children.**

NARRATOR: He then released Bar-Abbas to them: but he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. Pilate's soldiers then took Jesus into the Governor's headquarters, where they collected the whole company round him. First they stripped him and dressed him in a scarlet mantle; and plaiting a crown of thorns they placed it on his head, with a cane in his right hand. Falling on their knees before him they jeered at him:

ALL: **Hail, King of the Jews!**

NARRATOR: They spat on him, and used the cane to beat about the head. Finally, when the mockery was over, they took off the mantle and dressed him in his own clothes. Then they led him to be crucified. On their way they met a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and they pressed him

into service to carry his cross. So they went to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull) and there they offered him a drink of wine mixed with drugs: but when he had tasted it he would not drink.

NARRATOR:

After fastening him to the cross they divided his clothes among them by casting lots, and then sat down there to keep watch. Over his head was placed the inscription giving the charge: This is Jesus the King of the Jews! Two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right, and the other on his left. The passers-by hurled abuse at him: they wagged their heads and cried,

ALL:

You would pull the temple down, would you, and build again in three days. Come down from the cross and save yourself, if you are indeed the Son of God.

NARRATOR:

So too the chief priests with the lawyers and elders mocked at him. They said,

ALL:

He saved others, but he cannot save himself. King of Israel indeed! Let him come down from the cross and then we will believe in him. Did he trust in God? Let God rescue him, if he wants him - for he said he was God's son.

NARRATOR:

Even the bandits who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way. Darkness fell over the whole land from midday until three in the afternoon: and at about three Jesus cried out loud,

JESUS:

Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? My God, my God why have you forsaken me?

NARRATOR:

Some of the bystanders, on hearing this said, "He is calling Elijah." One of them ran at once and fetched a sponge, which he soaked in sour wine, and held it to his lips on the end of a cane. But the others said,

ALL:

Let us see if Elijah will come and save him.

NARRATOR: Jesus again gave a loud cry, and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. There was an earthquake, the rocks split and the graves opened and many of God's people arose from sleep, and coming out of their graves after his resurrection they entered the Holy City, where many saw them. And when the centurion and his men who were watching over Jesus saw the earthquake and all that was happening, they were filled with awe, and they said,

ALL: TRULY THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD.

A Sermon may be preached

The Nicene Creed

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only 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,
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.

The Prayers

The Peace

Once we were far off,
but now in union with 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
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

The Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.
All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.
The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.
He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

All To you be glory and praise for ever.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

All To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Come, take this bread, this is his body.
Eat and think of him, this is our saving grace.
Take this cup, blood shed for many.
Drink and think of him, this is our saving grace.

**All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold 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 nature 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.**

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.

Hymn

The 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 among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen**

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