



# Palm Sunday

## ¶ Gathering

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

*Words of welcome and introduction are said. The account of Jesus's triumphal entry is read*

### *Matthew 21.1-11*

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately' <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup> '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.' <sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> 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!' <sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

## The Lord's Prayer

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.**

## Hymn

*We sing the Passiontide hymn 'My song is love unknown'*

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.

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.

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 hath 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.

*Samuel Crossman*

## Collect

*The Rector says the Collect*

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 forever.

**Amen.**

All

## ¶ Word and Prayer

### Epistle Reading

#### *Philippians 2.5-11*

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Reader** This is the word of the Lord.

**All** **Thanks be to God.**

### Passion Reading

#### *Matthew 27.11-54*

##### **Reader 1**

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

##### **Reader 2**

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> 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?' <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> 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.' <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said,

**All** **'Barabbas.'**

### Reader 1

<sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?'  
All of them said,

All **'Let him be crucified!'**

### Reader 2

<sup>23</sup> Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more,

All **'Let him be crucified!'**

### Reader 1

<sup>24</sup> 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.' <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered,

All **'His blood be on us and on our children!'**

### Reader 2

<sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

### Reader 1

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> 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!' <sup>30</sup> They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

### Reader 2

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

### Reader 1

<sup>38</sup> Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> 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.' <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> '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.' <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup> The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

### Reader 2

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' <sup>48</sup> 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. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> 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!'

Reader 1 This is the Passion of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Address

*The Revd Sydwell Isaac*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**All** 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 Penitence

**Rector** 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.

*This prayer of confession is said*

**All** **Almighty God,  
long-suffering and of great goodness:  
I confess to you,  
I confess with my whole heart  
my neglect and forgetfulness  
of your commandments,  
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;  
the hurts I have done to others,  
and the good I have left undone.  
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;  
and raise me to newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Absolution

*The Rector declares God's forgiveness*

The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant *you* pardon and forgiveness of all *your* sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and comfort  
of the Holy Spirit.

**All** **Amen.**



## Prayers of Intercession

*Prayers of intercession incorporate this response*

Rector Lord hear us.  
All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*At the end*

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

## The Peace

*The Rector introduces the Peace*

Christ is our peace.  
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
We meet in his name and share his peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Hymn

*We sing the hymn 'Praise, my soul'*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him.  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him.  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him.  
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him;  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him.  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*Henry Francis Lyte*

## The Blessing

Rector 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 amongst you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**