

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Palm Sunday

## Worship at home

### Gathering

*This service has been put together for us to use at home on Palm Sunday. You will need a **palm cross** see how to **make one on the picture or draw a simple cross***

### Opening Response

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

### Word

*Psalm 118 (1-2, 19-end)*

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

Let Israel now proclaim,  
'His mercy endures for ever.'

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

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

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

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

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

Come, O Lord, and save us we pray.  
Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;  
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God; he has given us light;  
link the pilgrims with cords  
right to the horns of the altar.

You are my God and I will thank you;  
you are my God and I will exalt you.

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

### New Testament Reading

*This reading is Matthew's version of Jesus entering Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week.*

*As you read it, can you spot any of Psalm 118 in this reading?*

*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.'

## **Pause for reflection**

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures for ever" (Psalm 118:1)*

We pause to think of one of the earliest times we can remember knowing that God is good.

We pause to give thanks to God for someone who told us about God, and we remember before God people who continue to show us God's goodness.

We pause to pray for courage to show or tell someone something of/about God this special Holy Week.

## **Response**

### **Praying with your palm cross**

*Hold the cross in your right hand and then place your left thumb on the left 'cross piece' and pray for peace.* Loving God, we thank you that your peace reaches into every situation.

We pray for the health and well-being of our world, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry.

*Place your left thumb on the right of the 'cross piece' and pray for wisdom.*

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of your wisdom and your leading.

We pray for all who are looking for the right medicines to help those who are ill, and for those who are guiding our nation at this time, that they all may make wise decisions.

*Place your left thumb on the base of the 'cross piece' and pray for trust.*

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of friendship. We pray for our local communities, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for.

*Place your left thumb on the top of the 'cross piece' and pray for hope.*

Loving God, We thank you that your hope reaches into every situation.

We pray for the gravely ill and the dying,  
that they may know you close.

*Place your left thumb on the centre of the 'cross piece' and pray for strength.*

Loving God, strengthen us with your Spirit,  
that we might know your steadfast love – this and every day. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us: 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.

## 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.

## Dismissal Closing Responses

We tell your story,  
we follow in your footsteps.  
Lead us into Holy Week.

We walk towards the city,  
we wait in the garden.  
Lead us onto holy ground.

We journey towards death,  
we hope for resurrection.  
Lead us into holy joy.

### ***Make yourself a drink and, why not ring someone who you think needs a call?***

*Some material from Common Worship © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. The structure of the prayers was taken from Church Support Hub (Life Events Team), and the words adapted from Church of England's Coronavirus liturgy and prayer resources. Closing Responses – Eggs and Ashes: Practical and Liturgical Resources for Lent and Holy Week, R Burgess and C Polhill.*