

Palm Sunday 29th March 2026

The Triumphal Entry

Welcome and Notices

Opening Responses

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Rejoice for our King is in our midst!

He comes not with earthly power, but with humility and peace.

Hosanna in the highest! Let us worship the King!

During Lent we have been preparing for Easter. Our Lord Jesus Christ on this day entered the Holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering and death. Today we greet him as our king, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms, to the glory of the resurrection, but we do so by the dark road of suffering and death. As we seek to be united with him in his suffering on the cross; may we share his resurrection and new life.

**Lord Jesus, you rode into your city in triumph on this day,
receiving the shouts and the welcome of many people.**

Come into this church today.

Receive our welcome and our acclaim.

Come to rule in our hearts and minds

and help us to go out to proclaim you as ruler over all.

Opening Song; Make way Make way

Make way, make way, for Christ the King

In splendour arrives.

Fling wide the gates and welcome him

Into your lives.

Make way! Make way!

Make way! Make way!

For the King of kings!

For the King of kings!

Make way! Make way!

Make way! Make way!

And let his kingdom in!

He comes the broken hearts to heal,
The prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
The blind shall see.

Make way! Make way!
Make way! Make way!
For the King of kings!
For the King of kings!
Make way! Make way!
Make way! Make way!
And let his kingdom in!

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
Who weep and sigh;
With laughter, joy and royal crown
He'll beautify.

Make way! Make way!
Make way! Make way!
For the King of kings!
For the King of kings!
Make way! Make way!
Make way! Make way!
And let his kingdom in!

We call you now to worship him
As Lord of all.
To have no other gods but him:
Their thrones must fall!

Make way! Make way!
Make way! Make way!
For the King of kings!
For the King of kings!
Make way! Make way!
Make way! Make way!
And let his kingdom in! *(repeat chorus)*

Lent Liturgy

Each week throughout Lent we place on the Lenten Cross a symbol to remind us of the story of our Lord's journey to the cross, climaxing in his death and resurrection.

Our symbol today is a palm branch. The crowd spread palm branches on the road to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem.

(bring forward the palm).

Bible Reading.

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" .

Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written:

"Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt".

(John 12v 12-15)

Prayer:

**Lord, we welcome you with gladness;
we open the gates of our hearts to you as our king.
Rule in our hearts, we pray as the Prince of Peace.
Amen.**

Sung Response: Hallelujah, my Father

**Hallelujah, my Father,
for giving us your Son;
sending him into the world
to be given up for men,
knowing we would bruise him
and smite him from the earth.
Hallelujah, my Father,
in his death is my birth.
Hallelujah, my Father,
in his life is my life.**

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Confession

On Palm Sunday, the crowds worshipped Jesus; on Good Friday they shouted for him to die. Let us who also worship him, confess that we sometimes reject him and ask for his forgiveness:

Lord Jesus Christ, you come to us in peace,
but we sometimes shut the door of our minds against you.

In your mercy: forgive us and help us.

You come to us in humility,
but we prefer our own proud ways.

In your mercy: forgive us and help us.

You come to us in judgement,
but we cling to our familiar sins.

In your mercy: forgive us and help us.

You come to us in majesty,
but we will not have you to reign over us.

In your mercy: forgive us and help us.

**Lord, forgive our empty praise, fill our loveless hearts;
come to us and make our lives your home for ever.**

Amen.

A moment of silence

We receive God's forgiveness

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Song: Thank you for the cross

**Thank you for the cross
The price you paid for us
How you gave yourself
So completely
Precious Lord; (precious Lord)**

Now our sins are gone
All forgiven
Covered by your blood
All forgotten
Thank you, Lord; **(thank you, Lord)**

*Oh, I love you, Lord
Really love you, Lord
I will never understand why you love me
You're my deepest joy
You're my heart's desire
And the greatest thing of all, O Lord, I see
You delight in me*

For our healing there
Lord, you suffered
And to take our fear
You poured out your love
Precious Lord; **(precious Lord)**
Calvary's work is done
You have conquered
Able now to save
So completely
Thank you, Lord; **(thank you, Lord)**

*Oh, I love you, Lord
Really love you, Lord
I will never understand why you love me
You're my deepest joy
You're my heart's desire
And the greatest thing of all, O Lord, I see
You delight in me* (repeat chorus)

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Reading: Matthew 21 v 1-11 (Sue Lyons)

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie

them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked,
“Who is this?”

The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Message: *(Richard)*

Response – Blessing of the Palms

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.

Hold up Palms

Prayer

**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 is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of Glory.
Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above every name.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Song: Hosanna, Hosanna

**Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!
Lord we lift up your name
with hearts full of praise
Be exalted oh Lord my God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Glory, Glory
Glory to the King of Kings!
Glory, Glory,
Glory to the King of Kings!
Lord we lift up your name
with hearts full of praise
Be exalted oh Lord my God!
Glory to the King of Kings!**

**Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!
Lord we lift up your name
with hearts full of praise
Be exalted oh Lord my God!
Glory to the King of Kings!**

**Lord we lift up your name
with hearts full of praise
Be exalted oh Lord my God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

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An Affirmation of Faith for Lent

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God
who knows our names and recognises our deepest needs.**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Son of the living God
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be
exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination
and that our path leads to a heavenly glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road
and that we are called to love one another as Christ loves us.**

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess our faith in Jesus,
the Christ.
Amen.**

Intercessions, Collect and the Lord's Prayer. *(Julie)*

Responses

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father
**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Collect for Palm Sunday

**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.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Offertory Song: Amazing Love

**My Lord what love is this
That pays so dearly
That I, the guilty one may go free**

***Amazing love, o what sacrifice
The Son of God given for me
My debt he pays and my death he dies
That I might live, that I might live.***

**And so they watched him die
Despised, rejected
But oh, the blood he shed flowed for me**

***Amazing love, o what sacrifice
The Son of God given for me
My debt he pays and my death he dies
That I might live, that I might live.***

**And now this love of Christ
Shall flow like rivers
Come wash your guilt away, live again**

***Amazing love, o what sacrifice
The Son of God given for me
My debt he pays and my death he dies
That I shall live, that I shall live. (Repeat chorus)***

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Offertory Prayer

God of all goodness and grace,
receive the gifts we offer;
and grant that our whole life
may give you glory and praise;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

(Ephesians 2, 15:16)

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

Time for sharing

Short Monologue: Christ on the road to Calvary. (Richard)

Final song: Oh to see the dawn

**Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.**

**Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.**

***This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath –
we stand forgiven at the cross.***

**Oh to see the pain written on your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought, every evil deed
crowning your bloodstained brow.**

***This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath –
we stand forgiven at the cross.***

**Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
'Finished!' the victory cry.**

***This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath –
we stand forgiven at the cross.***

**Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through your suffering I am free.
death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through your selfless love.**

***This, the power of the cross:
Son of God – slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
we stand forgiven at the cross. (repeat chorus)***

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Closing Prayer

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 onto Holy joy.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the Highest.

Blessing:

As we honour Jesus as King today,

May our praising hearts and obedient lives bring him Glory.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Refreshments and Prayer Ministry.

We are here as God's family, to draw closer to God, to live out our faith
and welcome all into the love of God.