ST MARY'S
CUDDINGTON



The Liturgy of Palm Sunday with Holy Communion

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

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

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
And also with you.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. 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.

The people hold up palms or branches while this prayer is said by the president:

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 for ever. **Amen**

THE PALM GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*
Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE PROCESSION

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

During the procession all hold palms or branches, and appropriate hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung.

THE COLLECT AND READINGS

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

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.
Amen.

One or two readings, following which:

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

A HYMN may be sung.

All stand and face the Gospel.

THE PASSION GOSPEL

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal 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.

The congregation take the part of the Roman Soldiers, the Disciples and the Crowd.

Narrator: Hear the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

Judas: What will you give me if I betray him to you?

Narrator: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

Disciples/All: Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, 'My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'

Narrator: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

Narrator: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

Disciples/All: Surely not I, Lord?

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Narrator: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas: Surely not I, Rabbi!

Narrator: Jesus replied,

Jesus: You have said so.

Narrator: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus: Take, eat; this is my body.

Narrator: The he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Narrator: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Narrator: Peter said to him,

Peter: Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Narrator: Peter said to him,

Peter Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Narrator: And so said all the disciples.
Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

Jesus: Sit here while I go over there and pray.

Narrator: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

Jesus: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

Narrator: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

Narrator: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Narrator: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

Narrator: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Narrator: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

Narrator: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Judas: Greetings, Rabbi!

Narrator: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Friend, do what you are here to do.

Narrator: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?

Narrator: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me.
But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.

Narrator: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against the Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

Witnesses/All: This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'

Narrator: The high priest stood up and said,

High Priest: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Narrator: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

High Priest: I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Narrator: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest: He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

Narrator: They answered,

Priests/Men: He deserves death.

Narrator: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

Priests/Men: Prophesy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

Narrator: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

Servant Girl 1: You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

Narrator: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

Peter: I do not know what you are talking about.

Narrator: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

Servant Girl 2: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

Narrator: Again he denied it with an oath.

Peter: I do not know the man.

Narrator: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

Crowd/All: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

Narrator: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man!

Narrator: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

Judas: I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

Narrator: But they said,

Priests/Men: What is that to us? See to it yourself.

Narrator: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

Priests/Men: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.

Narrator: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'

Narrator: Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate asked him,

Pilate: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Narrator: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.

At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Narrator: For he realised that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him.

Pilate's wife: Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

Narrator: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

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

Narrator: And they said:

Crowd/All: Barabbas.

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Narrator: All of them said,

Crowd/All: Let him be crucified!

Narrator: Then he asked,

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

Crowd/All Let him be crucified!

Narrator: 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,

Pilate: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

Narrator: Then the people as a whole answered,

Crowd/All: His blood be on us and on our children!

Narrator: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 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,

Soldiers/Men: Hail, King of the Jews!

Narrator: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Crowd/All: 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.

Narrator: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

Crowd/All: He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Isreal; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'

Narrator: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Narrator: that is,

Jesus: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Narrator: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Crowd/All: This man is calling for Elijah.

Narrator: 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. But the others said,

Crowd/All: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Narrator: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep

were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

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,

Centurion: Truly this man was God's Son!

Narrator: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

Priests/Men: Sir, we remember what that imposter said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first.

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

Narrator: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

This is the Passion of the Lord.
(No response is made)

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people,
that through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow,
feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

THE SHARING OF 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.
And also with you.

The peace is shared with one another.

An OFFERTORY HYMN may be sung during which bread, wine, money and other gifts are brought to the Altar for the Eucharist.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself that the world might live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love.
Amen

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
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.

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.

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

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.

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:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us so we pray
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
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 for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Everyone is invited to the altar to receive Communion or a Blessing,
During the Holy Communion a HYMN and ANTHEM may be sung.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.
Amen

Faithful God,
may we who share this banquet
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our salvation, life and hope,
who reigns as Lord now and for ever.
Amen.

NOTICES may be read here.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May the Father,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life.
Amen.

May Christ,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.
Amen.

May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ
that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

A FINAL HYMN may be sung.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.

Ministers and people depart.