



# Palm Sunday Liturgy

28<sup>th</sup> March 2021



## ***The Liturgy of the Palms***

Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing, by works of charity and self-sacrifice, for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. Today we come together in union with the Church throughout the world to begin this solemn celebration. Christ entered into triumph into his own city to complete his work as Messiah; to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion this entry which began his saving work and follow him with a lively faith. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Almighty God, we pray you to bless + these palms and make them holy. Today, we joyfully acclaim Jesus our Messiah and King. May we reach one day the happiness of the new and everlasting Jerusalem by faithfully following him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen**

*The crosses are then sprinkled with holy water.*

Listen to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(Mark 11: 1-11)*

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

***Hymn***

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;  
thy humble beast pursues his road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The winged squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes  
to see th'approaching sacrifice.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father, on his sapphire throne  
expects his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, your pow'r and reign.**

### ***The Liturgy of the Word***

#### **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.**

#### **Old Testament Reading**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

*(Isaiah 50.4-9)*

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

This is the word of Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

(Psalm 31, 9-16)

Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, my soul and my body also.

**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of my affliction,  
and my bones are consumed.**

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street, they flee from me.

**I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of mind;  
I have become like a broken vessel.**

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd, fear is on every side;  
they scheme together against me, and plot to take my life.

**But my trust is in you, O Lord.**

**I have said, 'You are my God.**

'My times are in your hand;

deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

**'Make your face to shine upon your servant,  
and save me for your mercy's sake.'**

## New Testament Reading

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

(Philippians 2.5-11)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## The Passion Gospel

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark.

*Silence after the Passion Reading*

Croeso and welcome to this reflection for the sixth Sunday of Lent, which we more commonly call Palm Sunday. It is also, of course, the beginning of the most important week of the Christian calendar, of Holy Week. And our readings for today are from the prophet Isaiah chapter 50, verses 4 to 9A. And from St. Mark's Gospel chapter 11, verses 1 to 11.

On Palm Sunday, because we recall Jesus's arrival into Jerusalem on a donkey and the way the crowds greeted him, waving palm branches, were often given in church a palm cross. Here is one I have from a previous year, which I keep right next to my desk. All that, like so much else is more difficult this year. But if you don't have a palm cross, I'd like to encourage you to find a cross of some kind, or an of image of a cross. Perhaps it's a crucifix somewhere in your home. Here's a crucifix, which I use sometimes to pray with. You might have one too. And if you haven't got an image of a cross, why don't you make a simple one for yourself? Something that can be part of your remembrances in this Holy Week, this year, something to keep with you, as we travel each day. During this Lent, I've been reflecting on the theme of endurance. After all, we've all been in a time of social and national endurance. And I've been asking what habits of life - habits of prayer, of love, of justice, of lament- what habits will help us in a time like this, to live with faith and hope, as we hold on.

My final reflection with you is about enduring to the end. Here we have the example of Jesus, who, as Isaiah says, "set his face like a flint" to the suffering that was to be imposed on him. And he finished the task that was given to him, the salvation of the world. He chose to endure rather than to escape. At any point in the story of this coming week, Jesus could have slipped out of Jerusalem, and headed back towards Galilee. He wasn't blind to the risks, to the fickleness of the crowd, to the meanness of the religious authorities. And he, just as we have to do, had to find courage to face the stresses and anxieties which went with his situation. But here on Palm Sunday, as Jesus rides into the city which will welcome him and then slay him, we have a story about seeing something through to the end. Not grasping at something and then thinking better of it. Not cutting it short when the going gets tough, but enduring until it is finished, or until it lets you go. And with the example of Jesus in mind, his faithfulness to what the Father was asking of him overriding all of his sense of self interest, let me offer you just three thoughts attached to phrases from our Old Testament passage in Isaiah chapter 50.

The first one is where Isaiah says, talking about the Suffering Servant, the one who will do God's will, God's purpose. "Morning by morning the Lord God awakens my ear to listen, as those who are taught, the Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious. I did not turn backwards." This talks about the servant of God attending, daily attending, morning by morning, to what God has to say, what God and goodness ask of him, and not being rebellious or giving up on it. So here's my first point for you. That constancy is a hugely important part

of our life, of our living well, of our living in faith. Constancy, devotion, loyalty, stickability: they're all virtues which we see in the God who we worship. Let me give you an example. We've been making a lot of appointments of Vicars during this Lent in the diocese. And we're welcoming into the diocese some new clergy, some who are coming to join us in our work here. And in making of those appointments, we do it by application, and interview. We get to know somebody's history, their ministerial experience. And one of the questions which always crops up is whether these people will stay with situations, learn from them, work through them, when the going gets tough. Ministry is very rarely plain sailing and it needs a resilient character. So if someone has a track record of leaving posts after a very short time, it inevitably signals a red flag, for those who are charged with the recruitment. We believe that there is a very great value in staying with our responsibilities, and not as Isaiah puts it, 'turning backwards'. I'm an enthusiastic supporter of the remarriage of divorcees in church. I believe in allowing people to make a new start: that failure is not the end. However, when the Church decided to allow such weddings to take place, I also felt with those who, sometimes out of Christian conviction about the lifelong nature of marriage, had stayed in difficult, sometimes maybe even abusive marriages, trying hard to observe their vows with constancy. The Church was certainly not undermining the devotion that they had applied to their own situation. And we do right to hold tight to our responsibilities, morning by morning, never being rebellious, never turning backward, but with constancy holding to what is asked of us.

Secondly, if we do endure to the end, it often involves us in painful sacrifice. I had a letter this week from someone whose wife had developed dementia. He was talking about how it was to be her carer, and how going to church was no longer possible for them both. He admitted to also struggling with our online services. But he'd heard me do a service on the radio, and he wanted me to know how much it helped, as he held tight to the burdens of caring for his wife. Isaiah goes on to say that the Suffering Servant, the one seeking to do God's will, doesn't hide his face from insults and spitting. But he set his face like a flint, and knows he shall not be put to shame. I marvel at the courage and dedication of so many who care or who maintain this spirit in the face of personal suffering, maybe not 'insults and spitting', but certainly painful sacrifices. What Isaiah is saying is that the pain is not everything. It's not the total picture. Suffering is not merely pain, for far more is achieved. There's more fruit. And take that example of the gentleman caring for his wife, just think of the dignity, the gift of dignity he is giving her in these years. And think perhaps of some of the people who've written about their time in concentration camps in World War Two, and who have become examples to us. Elie Weisel, Levi Primo, Viktor Frankl, Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, they all testified to how suffering was not the whole of their experience, that even that suffering is capable of making something better of us. So in enduring to the end, let us not be afraid of the anxiety or the pain, nor see it as the only thing that is going on in our life.

Thirdly, Isaiah repeats a phrase which should surely be our by-word, our repeated conviction. "The Lord God helps me." In facing things which are not easily fixed, things which will not end soon, which are stressful or unfair, and we wish were different. In the face of such things we will find for ourselves practical responses. We will turn to family and friends, will make sure that somewhere we find support and comfort for ourselves. But we also need the habit, day by day of reminding ourselves that it is 'the Lord God who helps us'. He doesn't abandon us. He doesn't even need to be asked for he knows, what are our cares, our troubles. He knows we need daily grace, and his grace will be sufficient for us, as it was for Jesus as He walked the pathway to the Cross, the path that was meant for him.

So he, of course, is our example in this week, our strength as we carry our own particular cross, endure our own pilgrim way, as we set our faces to deal with whatever tribulation has in store for us. What Jesus shows us is that our pilgrim journey isn't all about grim fortitude. For all its challenges, it's a way along which he promises to travel with us. And it is a way which leads us to eternal life. For we carry our cross, to the dawning of Easter and to the Alleluias of resurrection. "The Lord God helps me."

### *Hymn*

**There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.**

*Thank you, O my Father,  
for giving us your Son,  
and leaving your Spirit,  
till the work on earth is done.*

**Jesus, my Redeemer,  
name above all names,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O, for sinners slain.**

*Thank you, O my Father...*

**When I stand in glory,  
I will see his face,  
and there I'll serve my King for ever,  
in that holy place.**

*Thank you, O my Father...*

## **Intercessions**

Lord, on this day you were welcomed into the Holy City as the King of Glory. May we welcome you into our hearts, that your Kingdom may come in our lives.

Lord, you humbled yourself and became nothing for our sake. We pray for all who serve within the church, that guided by your spirit we may serve the poor, the lonely, the outcast and the homeless, in these times of darkness for our world.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, on this day the crowd shouted your praises, but in just a few days they turned against you. Give governments around the world the courage to hold fast to what is true and right. In these unprecedented times we pray that all leaders may show wisdom in their decision making and work for the common good.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, as the crowd spread their cloaks and waved palms in your honour, we give you thanks for the occasions that fill us with joy. We pray for our family and friends that have shaped us into the people we are, for the love and support we share. We pray for our communities as we work together to maintain our community spirit.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, in your passion we see our human frailty. Be with all whose endurance is strained and spirit is weakened. We pray for all affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, for those who are ill at home or in hospital, including... and all who care for them. May your spirit of healing be upon them at this time. We pray for all doctors, nurses, care providers, pharmacists and front-line key workers.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, you shared our life even to the point of death. Gather to yourself in gentleness and peace all who have died this week, our loved ones departed and all whose anniversary occurs at this time, amongst them... may they rest in peace and rise in glory. As you are highly exalted so may we come to share in your eternal kingdom.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence we bring to you our personal prayers...

Lord as we walk beside you on this passion journey, may we be strengthened in faith and held in your loving arms.

**Merciful Father**  
**accept these prayers**  
**for the sake of your son,**  
**our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

Standing at the foot of the cross,  
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.**

### ***The Peace***

Once we were far away from God, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of his blood.

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

Let us share with one another sign of peace.

### ***Hymn***

**Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,**  
**Give me joy in my heart, I pray;**  
**Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,**  
**Keep me praising till the end of day:**

***Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,***  
***Sing hosanna to the King of kings.***  
***Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,***  
***Sing hosanna to the King.***

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray;  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,  
Keep me loving till the end of day:

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna...*

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
Give me love in my heart, I pray;  
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
Keep me serving till the end of day:

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna...*

Give me light in my heart, keep me shining,  
Give me light in my heart I pray;  
Give me light in my heart, keep me shining,  
Keep me shining to the end of day:

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna...*

### ***The Sending Out***

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

Christ crucified draw you to himself, the sure ground of faith, the 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. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayers for the sick this week:**

<i>Elizabeth Thomas</i>	<i>Betty Hicks</i>
<i>Kath Loughor</i>	<i>Colin Bailey</i>
<i>Eunice Wood</i>	<i>Sophie Sabit</i>
<i>Catherine Brynach</i>	<i>Helen</i>
<i>Margaret Price</i>	<i>Kevin Hurst</i>
<i>Orla Elizabeth O'Grady</i>	<i>Ian Dixon</i>
<i>Brendan</i>	<i>Lorna Powell</i>
<i>Barbara Goodway</i>	

### **Prayers for the recently departed:**

<i>Mary Wines</i>	<i>Mollie Nottage</i>
<i>Pat Evans</i>	

### **Easter Hymn Requests**

*If you have any hymn requests for our Zoom worship during the Easter season, please send them to one of the clergy team.*

### **Bible Study Group**

*Our next Bible study is on Wednesday 31st March at 6-7pm, please email Rev Angela for the link.*

### **Children's Saturday Club**

*Children's club on Zoom every Saturday at 10am during term time. If you would like to join want to join, please email Rev Angela at [angelacooper03@gmail.com](mailto:angelacooper03@gmail.com)*



Monday	9am, Morning Prayer   Zoom 12.30pm, Holy Eucharist   Welsh St Donats
Tuesday	9am, Morning Prayer   Zoom 12.30pm, Holy Eucharist   Llancarfan
Wednesday	10am, Morning Prayer   Zoom 12.30pm, Holy Eucharist   Peterston
Maundy Thursday	12.30pm, Holy Eucharist   St Bride's 7pm, Worship with Watch of the Passion   Zoom
Good Friday	10am, All Age Stations of the Cross   Zoom 12.30pm, Good Friday Liturgy   Bonvilston
Holy Saturday	8pm, Solemn Easter Vigil   Llancarfan
Easter Sunday	9am, Holy Eucharist   Llantrithyd, Welsh St Donats and Peterston Churches 10.30am, Easter Worship   Zoom

Please remember to book in with church coordinators for in-person services.

**We wish you all a happy and blessed Easter.**

If you need any help or assistance, practically or spiritually in these difficult times please contact one of the clergy team:

Fr Martyn Davies – [frmartyn@sky.com](mailto:frmartyn@sky.com) – 01446 760498  
Fr David Morris – [davidmorris@churcheinwales.org.uk](mailto:davidmorris@churcheinwales.org.uk) – 07498318325  
Rev'd Dr Angela Cooper – [angelacooper03@gmail.com](mailto:angelacooper03@gmail.com) – 07811 018685