



Palm Sunday

We welcome you to St Matthew's Church this morning and pray you are blessed as we worship the Lord together.


If you are with us for the first time we would love to keep in touch with you, so please fill in one of our Welcome Cards. Thank you.

Please join in the words in **bold print**.

Don't forget to silence your mobile!

The Gathering

Processional Hymn

(163) 

There's a man riding in on a donkey,
there's a man, and they say He's king!
And the palm leaves are waving a
welcome

and the voices of the people sing:

*Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King!*

Why a king riding in on a donkey?
Why a king wearing no fine crown?
Where the drums, where the high-
sounding cymbals
if a king is riding into town?

Hear the voice of the King on a donkey!
Hear the joy of the news He brings!
He is Jesus, the Son of the Highest.
He is Jesus and the King of kings!

Paul Wigmore (1925-2014) © The Jubilate Group.

The Greeting

The president greets the people

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

and also with you.

Introduction

The president introduces the celebration using these or other appropriate words

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

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 11: 1-11

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples² 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.³ If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it,⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?'⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.⁸ Many people spread their

cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

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

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

¹¹Then 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.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no
secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts
by the inspiration of your
Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your
holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Invitation to confession

Christ himself carried up our sins in his body to the tree,
so that, free from sins,
we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.

cf 1 Peter 2.24

Let us confess our sins.

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak
your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you
from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you
in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

A period of silent prayer

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.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word
of God as it comes to us in the reading
of Holy Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

First Reading

Isaiah 50.4-9a

The servant of the LORD said:

⁴The 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. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened
my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did
not turn backwards. ⁶I 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.

⁷The 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; ⁸he
who vindicates me is near. Who will
contend with me? Let us stand up
together. Who are my adversaries? Let
them confront me.

⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand to sing

♪ Song (CAHON 436) ♪

Majesty, worship His majesty;
unto Jesus be glory, honour, and praise.

Majesty, kingdom authority,
flow from His throne unto His own:
His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of
Jesus;
magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the
King.

Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

*Jack W. Hayford (b.1934) © Rocksmith Music Inc./
Leosong Copyright Service Ltd*

Please be seated

The children leave for Young Church.

Second Reading

Philippians 2.5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in
Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the
form of God, did not regard equality
with God as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form
of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, ⁸he
humbled himself and became obedient
to the point of death – even death on a
cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above
every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of
Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven
and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and

every tongue should confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord, to the glory of
God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Let us stand to greet the Gospel
of Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ,
King of eternal glory.

**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 Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 15: 1 to end of 15

As soon as it was morning, the chief
priests held a consultation with the
elders and scribes and the whole
council. They bound Jesus, led him away,
and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate
asked him, 'Are you the King of the
Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.'
³Then the chief priests accused him of
many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again,
'Have you no answer? See how many
charges they bring against you.' ⁵But
Jesus made no further reply, so that
Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' ¹³They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' ¹⁴Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called

Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!' ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴²When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

The Sermon

Let us stand to declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the
Father, God from God, Light
from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were
made.**

**For us and for our salvation he
came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy
Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was
buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the
Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to
judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no
end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son, who with the
Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through
the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection
of the dead, and the life of the
world to come.**

Amen.

Please be seated

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 Liturgy of the Sacrament**

Please stand

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.

cf Ephesians 2.13

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

Let us offer one another a sign of
God's peace

♪ **Hymn (161)** ♪

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry:
O Saviour meek, pursue thy 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 wondering
eyes

To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The last and fiercest strife is nigh:
The Father on his sapphire throne
Awaits 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, thy power and reign.

Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868)

*At the preparation of the table this prayer
is said*

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 (D)

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.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards
your world.

In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels
sing your praise.

We join with them in heaven's song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are
full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes
from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus
came as your light.
With signs of faith and
words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and
washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they
turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of
your people.

This is his story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father,
for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks,
broke it and said:

This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread
and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defeating death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and
all the world.

This is our story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on
Christ with opened eyes and
hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in
heaven where all creation
worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

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

*As the children return from Young Church
we sing*

♪ **Chant** ♪

O, adoramus te, Domine

Taizé Community © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

The Lord's Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross,
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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one
bread.**

Agnus Dei

**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.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come
in.**

**Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from
under your table.**

**But you, Lord, are the God
of our salvation,
and share your bread with
sinners.**

**So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and
blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and
we in him;
and that we, with the whole
company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your
kingdom.
Amen.**

*Communicant members of any Christian
Church are invited to receive Holy
Communion. If you wish to receive a
blessing please bow your head.*

♪ **Anthem** ♪

♪ **Hymn (143)** ♪

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
loving kindness as the flood,
when the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
poured incessant from above,
and heaven's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.

Dyma gariad fel y moroedd

William Rees (1802-1883);

trans by William Edwards (1848-1929)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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.

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and
brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared
your love, gave us grace, and
opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's
body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring
life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give
light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you
have set before us,
so we and all your children shall
be free, and the whole earth
live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Notices

♪ Hymn (477) ♪

Go forth and tell!
O church of God, awake!
God's saving news
to all the nations take;
proclaim Christ Jesus,
Saviour, Lord, and king,
that all the world
His glorious praise may sing.

Go forth and tell!
God's love embraces all,
He will in grace
respond to all who call:
how shall they call
if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell!
The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts-
let no one be denied;
live out your life as
Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers
for His sole glory use.

Go forth and tell!
O church of God, arise!
go in the strength
which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations
His great name adore
and serve him,
Lord and king for evermore.

James Seddon (1915-1983)

© Mrs M. Seddon/admin The Jubilate Group

¶ The Dismissal

Blessing

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
upon you and remain with you, and all
those whom you love and all those for
whom you pray this Palm Sunday and
for evermore.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Copyright acknowledgement:

© 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

Some material included in this service is copyright:

© The Archbishops' Council 2000

Some material included in this service is copyright:

© The Archbishops' Council 2002

Collect (Palm Sunday, Additional)

© The Archbishops' Council 2004

Copyright © 2012, WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow,
G2 3DH, Scotland. wgrg@iona.org.uk; www.wgrg.co.uk.
Reproduced by permission.

Words reproduced under CCL No 5686

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE,
Licence #A-739265 All rights reserved