

Eucharist for Palm Sunday

5th April 2020

Celebrant: The Revd Canon Dr Malcolm Grundy

Organ music before the service

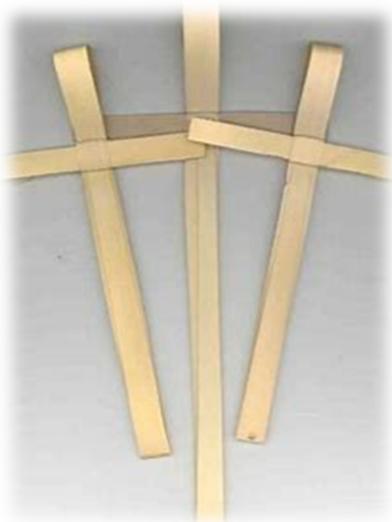
Valet will ich dir geben, BWV 735 *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Welcome to our service for Palm Sunday. As this Holy Week begins, I want to invite as many of you as possible to join in prayer with myself and others. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday there will be a short act of devotion where, with Bible readings and verse, I will share some of my own thoughts with you. On Maundy Thursday we will all share together in a communion service as we remember the Last Supper which Jesus shared with his disciples. Although dispersed we remain one worshipping community. On Good Friday across the city, in different ways a variety of acts of worship will be offered.

With colleagues I will introduce the last Hour at the Foot of the Cross from 2.00 until 3.00.

We will share more details about these services with you each day.

Dear friends 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.



If you have a palm cross please hold it up while this prayer is said by the celebrant:

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 now and for ever,
Amen.

The Palm Gospel: Matthew 21.1-11

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you,

just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵ "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." ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ 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!" ¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

New Testament reading: Philippians 2.5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

For the gift of his holy word.

Thanks be to God.

The Passion Gospel: Matthew 27.1-54

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Narrator: When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus. They had him bound, and led him away to hand him over to Pilate the governor. When he found that Jesus had been condemned, Judas his betrayer, was filled with remorse and took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders, saying,

Judas: I have sinned for I have betrayed innocent blood.

PEOPLE: WHAT IS THAT TO US? THAT IS YOUR CONCERN.

Narrator: Flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary, he left and went out and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said:
PEOPLE: IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO PUT THIS INTO THE TREASURY FOR IT IS BLOOD MONEY.

Narrator: So they discussed the matter and bought the potter's field with it as a graveyard for foreigners, and this is why the field is called the Field of Blood today. The words of the prophet Jeremiah were then fulfilled: "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the sum at which the precious One was priced by the children of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord directed me."

Jesus was brought before the governor and the governor put to him this question:-

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus: It is you who say it.

Narrator: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him,

Pilate: Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?

Narrator: But to the governor's complete amazement, Jesus offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time, it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ.

Narrator: For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message;

Wife: Have nothing to do with that man: I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.

Narrator: The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them,

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

Narrator: they said,

PEOPLE: BARABBAS. BARABBAS. BARABBAS

Pilate: In that case, what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?

PEOPLE: LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED!

Pilate: Why? What harm has he done?

PEOPLE: LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED.

Narrator: Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd & said:

Pilate: I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.

Narrator: And the people to a man shouted back,

PEOPLE: HIS BLOOD BE ON US AND ON OUR CHILDREN!

Narrator: Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

Narrator: The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the barracks and collected the whole company around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown, they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. They knelt in front of him and made fun of him saying,

PEOPLE: HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS!

Narrator: And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him. On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and forced him to carry the cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of a skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him, they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then they sat down and stayed there, keeping watch over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him which read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'. At the same time, two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said,

PEOPLE: SO YOU WOULD DESTROY THE TEMPLE AND REBUILD IT IN THREE DAYS! THEN SAVE YOURSELF! IF YOU ARE GOD'S SON, COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS!

Narrator: The chief priests and the elders mocked him in the same way,

PEOPLE: HE SAVED OTHERS BUT HE CANNOT SAVE HIMSELF. IF HE IS THE KING OF ISRAEL, LET HIM COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS NOW AND WE WILL BELIEVE IN HIM. HE PUTS HIS TRUST IN GOD: NOW LET GOD RESCUE HIM IF HE WANTS HIM. FOR HE SAID 'I AM THE SON OF GOD'.

Narrator: Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way. Now from the sixth hour, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

Jesus: Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you deserted me?

Narrator: When some of those who stood there heard this, they said,

PEOPLE: THIS MAN IS CALLING FOR ELIJAH.

Narrator: One of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said,

PEOPLE: LET US WAIT AND SEE IF ELIJAH WILL COME TO SAVE HIM.

Narrator: But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that moment, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; there was an earthquake; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquakes and all that had happened, they were filled with awe and said,

PEOPLE: TRULY THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

Music during the lighting of candles and time of personal reflection

Christus, der uns selig macht

Johann Sebastian Bach

Christ who brings us joy and has done no wrong, was for our sake seized like a thief in the night, taken before unbelievers and falsely accused. He was derided, spat upon, vilely mocked, as the Scripture tells.

(Chorale from the St John Passion, performed by the Choir and Orchestra of St Olave's in 2016)

Intercessions

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

For those who are ill: Encarnita Espiñeira, Lynn Turner, Dominic, Naomi and Tom Anderson, Frances Van der Borgh, Andrew Franklin, Pauline Hall, Muriel Hansen, Duncan Campbell, Clare Whiteley, Andrea Heath, Benjamin Kilby, Margaret Allen, Priscilla Thornton, Sandi Richardson, June Llewellyn, Heloise Hartley and all affected directly or indirectly by Covid 19.

For the recently departed: Alison Poskitt, Barry Eastham, Susan Hetherington

For those whose Year's Mind falls this week: Kathleen Hampson, Percy Pfluger, Mary Peacock, Olive Evelyn Savage, Agnes Anne Beresford, Alice Gwendoline Prescott, William Baines.

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father through Christ the Saviour of the world.

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 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 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 truly 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 draw 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

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 Breaking of the Bread

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

*If you have their own bread you are invited to break and share it as a gesture
of fellowship and agape.*

The Invitation to Communion

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.**

The Communion

The priest receives the bread and wine on behalf of all.

Post Communion Prayers

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.**

The Blessing

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.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Valet will ich dir geben, BWV 736 *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Note on the music:

The organ preludes before and at the end of the service are based on the chorale melody sung in this country to the Palm Sunday hymn "All glory, laud and honour", though set to different words in German.

Our thanks to all who have contributed to this service and to Churchwarden Ben Pugh for making this broadcast possible.