

Palm
Sunday



Hosanna!



The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Intro Hymn

Jesus, who entered Jerusalem on a lowly donkey:
**WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE POOR OF
THE WORLD.**

Jesus, who drove out the money-changers and disarmed
the principalities and powers;
**WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO WORK FOR A
JUST ECONOMIC SYSTEM**

**WHERE ALL MIGHT SHARE EARTH'S
RESOURCES.**

Unarmed Jesus, who faced the powers with his own
body:
**WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO WORK FOR
JUSTICE AND PEACE.**

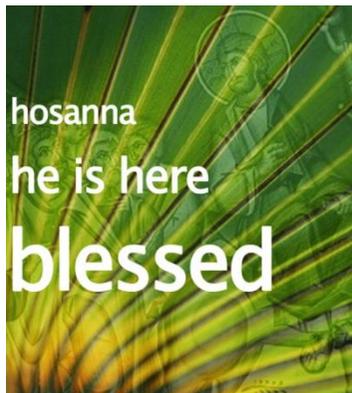
Jesus, who knew that even the death of a single sparrow
was not missed by God:
**WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO WORK FOR
THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE.**

Jesus, this Palm Sunday, we renew again our commitment to you and to the values of the kingdom of God.

**WITH GOD'S HELP WE COMMIT OURSELVES.
AMEN**

On this day, Jesus and his disciples entered Jerusalem to finally confront the religious authorities of the day. Jesus rode in on a donkey rather than a horse,

to show that he came in peace, and the crowds welcomed him with palm branches and shouts of 'Hosanna!'. Then he retired with his disciples to Bethany.



PRAYER

Jesus, Lord of the Journey,
we thank you
that you set your face firmly towards Jerusalem,
with single eye and pure intent,
knowing what lay ahead
but never turning aside.

Jesus, Lord of the Palms,
we thank you
that you heard the shouts of 'Hosanna!'
from the ordinary people,
living fully in that moment of welcome.

Jesus, Lord of the Cross and the Empty Tomb,
we thank you
that you freely entered the heart
of our sin and our pain,
along a way that was terrible.
Your kingship became your brokenness
and your dying became
the triumph of undying love. **AMEN**

Call to Worship

Lord Jesus, humble and riding on a donkey

We greet you

Acclaimed by crowds and carolled by children,

We cheer you

Moving from the peace of the countryside
to the corridors of power

We salute you, Christ our Lord

You are giving beasts of burden a new dignity;

You are giving majesty a new face'

You are giving those who long for redemption
a new song to sing.

**With them, with heart and voice,
we shout HOSANNA**

(Stages on the Way pg 77, Wildgoose Publishing)

Reader 1: We are nearing the end of our Lenten journey, and as disciples of our Lord we remember the events of long ago, when the twelve disciples entered Jerusalem with Jesus, but then deserted him a few days later. Our symbol is a palm frond or green branch, waved in victory as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Reader 2: We remember that in our own lives, when things go well we often know God is with us, but when we are afraid, when we are at risk, we may abandon our faith in God. We forget that God's victory was not won on Palm Sunday, but on Good Friday, on the cross.

**Holy One,
you have journeyed with us
through this Lenten season.
Help us to remain faithful to you,
to trust in your purpose,
even in times of deepest doubt. Amen.**

*(written by Carol Penner and downloaded at
www.pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au)*

The Confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled and wandered far off.
Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in
penitence and faith.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We often fail to walk the way of the cross.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

(New Patterns for Worship, Church of England)



Absolution

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him
in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race
you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death
upon the cross: in your mercy enable us to share in his
obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his
resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for
ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

A reading from the Prophet of Isaiah,

Chapter 50 beginning at Verse 4

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 backward. 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? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

[NRSV Isaiah 50:4-9a]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm 126 (Page 362 APBA)

1 When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:

then were we like those restored to life.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter:

and our tongue with singing.

3 Then said they among the heathen:

'The Lord has done great things for them.'

4 Truly the Lord has done great things for us:

and therefore we rejoiced.

5 Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:

as the streams return to the dry south.

6 Those who sow in tears:

shall reap with songs of joy.

7 They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:

shall come again in gladness,

bringing their sheaves with them

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians,
Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 5

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.

[NRSV Philippians 2:5-11]

Hear the word of the Lord, *thanks be to God.*

The Gradual Hymn

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke, Chapter 22 beginning at Verse 14**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" Then they

began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

[NRSV Luke 22:14-23]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, *praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

Sermon



Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God,
who conceived all that is created,
God who fathers and mothers all people.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ
God's firstborn and only Lord of the earth.
He came from both heaven
and the womb of the virgin Mary;
he lived in solidarity with humankind,
befriending, teaching, healing and restoring;
he was denied and betrayed by his friends;
and was done to death by the state.
He descended to the place of oblivion,
rose to life again on the third day,
and ascended to heaven where he sits at God's right
hand.
This same Jesus will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
whose dynamic presence can make all things new.
And we believe in the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

(Iona Abbey Worship Book pgs 38/9)

INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, please give us the grace to pray with our hearts as well as our lips, and to serve with our deeds as well as our prayers.

May Your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In places where your church celebrates with joy, where it laughs with children and praises with adults 'til hosannas overflow from every heart...

May Your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In places where your church gathers in sorrow or fear today, weeping with Jesus for the cross that must be carried in the face of misunderstanding and abuse...

May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In places where people are at their wits end, angry or frightened, ready to hit out at those around them, or falling into despair and planning to take their own lives...

May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In places where there are small hopes begging to be kept alive, programs of compassion needing to be supported, and the beginnings of faith requiring recognition and encouragement...

May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

God of Christ Jesus and our God enable each of us to enter into fellowship with the Spirit of Christ that we may live life abundantly as we worship you and serve others.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

We are the body of Christ
His Spirit is with us

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

Hymn

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Come and see the gifts of God's love,
laid on this table waiting for you.
Come and touch the gifts of God's love,
wafer and wine to restore you.
Come and taste the gifts of Christ's love,
broken and poured out for you.
Come and share the love of God in Christ's name.
Wherever you've come from, whatever your age,
Whoever you are, wherever you've been,
whatever you've done,
this is for you when you receive these gifts
with all your heart, mind and soul.



The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

He was tempted in every way as we are, yet he did not
sin.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin

and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil,
and to walk in the way of his love.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
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.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again, we celebrate,
with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit,
we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to
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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**We who are many are one body, for we all share in
the one bread.**

[The gifts of God for the people of God.] Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion is administered

The Sending Out of God's People

God of mercy,
may we who have shared this holy meal
know your forgiveness in our lives,
bring and your reconciliation to others,
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

The cross... **We shall take it**
The journey... **We shall make it**
The pain... **We shall bear it**
The joy... **We shall share it**
The gospel... **We shall live it**
The love... **We shall give it**
The light... **We shall cherish it**
The darkness... **God shall perish it.**

(Iona Abbey Worship Book pg 145)

PRAYERS

**All holy, gracious and loving God,
you have drawn us to your heart,
and nourished us at your table.**

**Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us forth with courage and peace,
proclaiming the Good News
to all who will listen. AMEN**

Step gratefully into this Holy Week;
tread softly, for many things are already bruised,
go reverently, for holiness is in unlikely places,
walk lovingly, for the love of the Crucified is the key
to all on earth and in heaven.

The Blessing

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
that you may find in him crucified
a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sin forgiven
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with
you always.
Amen.

Recessional Hymn

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