

Palm Sunday 24th March 2024

Parish Eucharist

with Palm Procession

and The Passion Narrative



We gather in worship

Those who are able are invited gather outside under the Guildhall to begin the Palm Procession, and take a palm cross from the baskets.

The cantor sings,

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.

The priest welcomes everyone and shares this greeting,

In the name of the Father, and of the ₱ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

The priest introduces the celebration,

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.

We hold up our palm crosses as the priest prays,

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 lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Palm Gospel

The deacon says,

The Lord be with you: And also with you.

Hear the gospel of or Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord - the King of Israel!'

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!' His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

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

Let us go forth praising our Messiah.

Sing hosanna to his glory, sing hosanna to the King. Wave your palm leaves, raise your voices, to the Lord his praises sing.

Sing to Jesus, King of Israel, the anointed, David's Son, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.

Sing hosanna to his glory...

Sing of Jesus on a donkey riding through Jerusalem. Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King. Sing hosanna to his glory, sing hosanna to the King. Wave your palm leaves, raise your voices, to the Lord his praises sing. As the Hebrews sang his praises, laid their cloaks down for the Lord, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.

Sing hosanna to his glory...

The disciples sang of God's almighty action in the world, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.

Sing hosanna to his glory...

If our voices all fell silent even stones would cry his name, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.

Sing hosanna to his glory...

Jesus brought us our salvation

through his passion on the cross.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.

Sing hosanna to his glory, sing hosanna to the King. Wave your palm leaves, raise your voices, to the Lord his praises sing.

Let us echo with hosannas praises that the angels sing, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.

Sing hosanna to his glory...

Praise the Father, praise the Spirit, Praise the Son, forever One, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King.

Lis Burns & Susie Simpson

We listen for God's Word

Once we are all in our places, the priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words,

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

Silence is kept.

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as the Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. **Amen.**

We sit for the First Reading: 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 the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

The deacon introduces the Passion Gospel, saying, 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.

- Mark: Hear the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
 It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,
- *Priests:* Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.
- *Mark:* While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,
- *Crowd*: Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.
- Mark: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,
- Jesus: Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

Mark: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, the disciples said to Jesus,

- *Disciples:* Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?
- Jesus: Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.
- *Mark:* So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

- *Jesus:* Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.
- *Mark:* They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

Disciples: Surely, not I?

- Jesus: It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For 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.
- *Mark:* While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,
- Jesus: Take; this is my body.

- *Mark:* Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,
- *Jesus:* This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.
- *Mark:* When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,
- *Jesus:* You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.
- Mark: Peter said to him,
- Peter: Even though all become deserters, I will not.
- *Jesus:* Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.
- Mark: But Peter said vehemently,
- *Peter:* Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.
- Mark: And all of them said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples,

- Jesus: Sit here while I pray.
- *Mark:* He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them,
- *Jesus:* I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.
- *Mark:* And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,
- *Jesus:* Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.

- *Mark:* Jesus came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,
- Jesus: Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- *Mark:* And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,
- *Jesus:* Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.
- Mark: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,
- *Judas:* The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.
- *Mark:* So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,
- Judas: Rabbi!
- *Mark:* and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,
- Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.
- *Mark:* All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

Mark: They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

Crowd: We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'

- *Mark:* But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,
- *High Priest:* Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?
- *Mark:* But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,
- *High Priest:* Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?
- *Jesus:* I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'
- *Mark:* Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,
- *High Priest:* Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?
- *Mark:* All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,
- Priests: Prophesy!
- *Mark:* The guards also took him over and beat him.

Mark: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servantgirls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

Servant Girl: You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

- Mark: But he denied it, saying,
- *Peter:* I do not know or understand what you are talking about.
- *Mark:* And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

Servant Girl: This man is one of them.

Mark: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

Crowd: Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.

- *Mark:* But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,
- *Peter:* I do not know this man you are talking about.
- *Mark:* At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.
- Mark: 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. Pilate asked him,
- *Pilate:* Are you the King of the Jews?
- Jesus: You say so.
- *Mark:* Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,
- *Pilate:* Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.

- Mark: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,
- *Pilate:* Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?
- *Mark:* For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,
- *Pilate:* Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?
- Mark: They shouted back,

Crowd: Crucify him!

- Mark: Pilate asked them,
- Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?
- *Mark:* But they shouted all the more,

Crowd: Crucify him!

Mark: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

Soldiers: Hail, King of the Jews!

Mark: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They 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.

Please stand

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

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

- *Crowd:* Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!
- *Mark:* In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,
- *Priests:* He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.
- *Mark:* Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

- Jesus: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?
- *Mark:* which means,
- Jesus: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

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

Crowd: Listen, he is calling for Elijah.

Mark: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Bystander: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

Mark: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

Centurion: Truly this man was God's Son!

Mark: There 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. These 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.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph 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. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then 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. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

We sit

The Prayers of Intercession.

This response is used, ... Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

and, at the end,

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

We celebrate and receive Jesus in Bread and Wine

The priest introduces the Peace, saying,

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 deacon says,

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We offer one another a sign of peace with a handshake, warm smile, nod, or bow, and the words, 'Peace be with you.'

The Offering

We stand to sing this hymn and a collection is taken. Please indicate if you wish to make an offering, cash or contactless.

Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity in perfect harmony, the Man who is God. Lord of eternity dwells in humanity, kneels in humility and washes our feet O what a mystery, meekness and majesty, Bow down and worship____ For this is your God____ This is your God____

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence, yet learns obedience to death on a cross. Suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice, And as they crucify, prays: 'Father forgive.' *O what a mystery*...

Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible, Love indestructible in frailty appears. Lord of infinity stooping so tenderly, lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne. *O what a mystery*....

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

The Preparation of the gifts

The priest says,

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

Please remain standing during the Eucharistic Prayer if it is comfortable for you.

The Lord is here; God's Spirit is with us.

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.

The priest praises God and we sing,

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

The priest continues, recalling the Last Supper,

then the deacon says,

Great is the mystery of faith

♪ Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The priest continues ending with

...forever and ever. Amen.

As our Saviour taught, 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 the bread

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

We sing,

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.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

We share in Communion

The people receive communion. Those who do not wish to receive are warmly invited to come forward for an individual blessing. Gluten free wafers are available.

Please come to the front and form a queue. Communion will be offered in both kinds, on the hand and from the chalice (optional). Please do not intinct (dip) the wafer in the chalice. Communion will be brought to those seated in the south aisle.

We sing this hymn,

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains poured for me the life-blood from his sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find, blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream which from endless torment doth the world redeem.

Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies; but the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Oft as it is sprinkled on our guilty hearts, Satan in confusion terror-struck departs;

Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high, angel hosts, rejoicing, make their glad reply.

Lift ye then your voices; swell the mighty flood; louder still and louder praise the precious blood.

Edward Caswall (1814-1878), based on earlier Italian.

The choir sings the anthem, **Cantique de Jean Racine** by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Verbe égal au Très-Haut, notre unique espérance, Jour éternel de la terre et des cieux, De la paisible nuit nous rompons le silence: Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les yeux.

Répands sur nous le feu de ta grâce puissante; Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta voix; Dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante Qui la conduit à l'oubli de tes lois!

Ô Christ! sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle, Pour te bénir maintenant rassemblé; Reçois les chants qu'il offre à Ta gloire immortelle, Et de tes dons qu'il retourne comblé. Word of the Highest, our only hope, Eternal day of earth and the heavens, We break the silence of the peaceful night; Saviour Divine, cast your eyes upon us!

Pour on us the fire of your powerful grace, That all hell may flee at the sound of your voice; Banish the slumber of a weary soul, That leads us to forget your laws!

O Christ, look with favour upon your faithful people Now gathered here to praise you; Receive their hymns offered to your immortal glory; May they go forth filled with your gifts.

Prayer after Communion

We keep silence together.

The priest says this 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.**

We pray,

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 given.

We go into the world to share God's love

We stand to sing this hymn,

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, your triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! The wingéd 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 Christ, thy power, and reign.

Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868)

The Blessing

We bow our heads and pray for God's blessing:

The Lord be with you; and also with you.

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.**

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

Please remain standing until the Ministers have left.

Please take this Service Sheet home with you. Refreshments are served after the service. Please stay and join us, and make yourself known if you are a newcomer or visitor.

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Our Services for Holy Week and Easter

TODAY: 17:00 Choral Evensong*

Monday 25 March to Wednesday 27 March

09:00 Morning Prayer

19:30 Meditative Eucharist in the Lady Chapel *

Maundy Thursday – 28 March

14:00 Children's craft with pizza & pop

19:30 Sung Eucharist* followed by the overnight Watch

Good Friday – 29 March

Stations of the Cross inside & outside the church building

12:00 - 14:00 Meditations on the cross & Passion

14:00 The Liturgy of Good Friday*

Easter Sunday – 31 March

05.30 The first Eucharist of Easter with baptism & breakfast

08:00 Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00 Eucharist followed by an Easter egg hunt *

17:00 Parish Evensong in the Lady Chapel *

* live-streamed on facebook.com/allsaintshw