

Palm Sunday: 10am Sunday 5th April

It will be helpful if you have with you a bible, a small cross and a candle. If you wear a cross, make this your focus for this act of worship. If you are not able to access the online resources, find a piece of joyful music to play as you prepare to worship.

Gathering

We gather together in praise as the people did when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on the donkey.

The president will greet us, and we respond in the usual way. Then we light a candle and remember all those gathered at this time in different places.

Prayers for Lighting a candle

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you heavenly Father,
for brothers and sisters in Christ, joining from home to worship you at this hour.

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you loving God,
that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

Blessed be God for ever.

Introduction to Palm Sunday

The president 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.

Hold your cross saying this prayer

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem
as Messiah to suffer and to die;
let these crosses 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

Matthew 21.1-11

We will not be able to sing at this point but applause and a few shouts of 'Hosanna' would be appropriate

Collect for Palm Sunday

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

A short silence for reflection is kept

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**

Reading Philippians 2.5-11

The Passion Gospel

Matthew 26.14 – 27.66

The dramatised reading by members of the congregation was recorded earlier in the week.

A short silence follows. There is no sermon.

Prayers of intercession

As we stand with Christ in his suffering, let us pray to the Father

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may
grow a rich union in Christ,

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that
our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice
and peace.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find
support and encouragement,

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel
that God is far from them,

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day
of Christ,

Holy God,

holy and strong,

holy and immortal,

have mercy upon us.

Communion

The Eucharistic prayer is printed on a separate sheet.

*If you are not following the 'live' service you may prefer to omit this and
continue with the Lord's Prayer and the Prayer for Spiritual Communion.*

The Lord's Prayer

This, and the following prayers to be said aloud at home.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

O Lord Jesus Christ,
since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I pray that you would come spiritually to my soul.
Come Lord Jesus,
come and cleanse me, heal me, strengthen me,
and unite me to yourself,
now and for evermore.

*Sing or say the **Agnus Dei***

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

Closing 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.

Prayer of Blessing

*Said by the president alone, but with all invited to join in with the **Amen***

May Christ crucified draw us to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us,
and all those who we love and pray for, this day and always. **Amen.**