

## A Service of the Word for Palm Sunday

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.**

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

### The Introduction

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

### The Palm Gospel

*When the Gospel is announced, this response is used*  
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The Palm Procession makes it's way to the church as Psalm 118 is recited*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures for ever.**

Let Israel now proclaim,  
**'His mercy endures for ever.'**

Let the house of Aaron now proclaim,  
**'His mercy endures for ever.'**

Let those who fear the Lord proclaim,  
**'His mercy endures for ever.'**

In my constraint I called to the Lord;  
**the Lord answered and set me free.**

The Lord is at my side; I will not fear;  
**what can flesh do to me?**

With the Lord at my side as my saviour,  
**I shall see the downfall of my enemies.**

It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
**than to put any confidence in flesh.**

It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
**than to put any confidence in princes.**

All the nations encompassed me,  
**but by the name of the Lord I drove them back.**

They hemmed me in, they hemmed me in on every side,  
**but by the name of the Lord I drove them back.**

They swarmed about me like bees;  
they blazed like fire among thorns,  
**but by the name of the Lord I drove them back.**

Surely, I was thrust to the brink,  
**but the Lord came to my help.**

The Lord is my strength and my song,  
**and he has become my salvation.**

Joyful shouts of salvation  
**sound from the tents of the righteous:**

'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;  
the right hand of the Lord raises up;  
**the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'**

I shall not die, but live  
**and declare the works of the Lord.**

The Lord has punished me sorely,  
**but he has not given me over to death.**

Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
**that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.**

This is the gate of the Lord;  
**the righteous shall enter through it.**

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
**and have become my salvation.**

The stone which the builders rejected  
**has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the Lord's doing,  
**and it is marvellous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Come, O Lord, and save us we pray.  
**Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;  
**we bless you from the house of the Lord.**

The Lord is God; he has given us light;  
**link the pilgrims with cords  
right to the horns of the altar.**

You are my God and I will thank you;  
**you are my God and I will exalt you.**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures for ever.**

Saving God,  
open the gates of righteousness,  
that your pilgrim people may enter  
and be built into a living temple  
on the cornerstone of our salvation,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Song - Make way, make way

### **The Prayers of Penitence**

On Palm Sunday, the crowds hailed Jesus as King; on Good Friday they shouted for him to die. Confessing that our faith is often shallow, we ask forgiveness for our sins.

Lord Jesus, you come to us in peace, but we find it hard to make peace with others. Lord, have mercy,

**Lord, have mercy.**

You come to us in humility, but we like to be the centre of attention. Christ, have mercy,

**Christ, have mercy.**

You come to us offering forgiveness, but we blame others for our failures. Lord, have mercy,

**Lord, have mercy.**

You come to us as the servant King, but we prefer to serve our own interests.

**Lord, forgive us and help us.**

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **The Collect**

### **The Passion Gospel is Introduced**

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 1st Part of the Passion Gospel**

Hymn 128 - All glory, laud and honour

### **The 2nd Part of the Passion Gospel**

*At the end*

This is the Passion of the Lord  
(No response is made)

Song - You are the King of Glory

### **Sermon**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*To the words:* Let us pray to the Lord.  
*We respond:* **Lord, have mercy.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Standing at the foot of the cross, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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 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.**

**Lord Jesus,  
as the crowds long ago  
welcomed you with shouts of Hosanna,  
we also welcome you,  
not with empty praise and shallow promises,  
but with grateful hearts  
that long to serve you, day by day.  
Amen.**

## **The 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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn 129 - Ride on, ride on in majesty

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