

Sunday April 10th 2022: Sixth Sunday in Lent – Palm Sunday
For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.



Hymn StF 265 H&P 159

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna!' cry;
your humble beast pursues its 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! Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father, on his sapphire throne / expects his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow your meek head to mortal pain / Then take, O God, your power, and reign.

Henry Hart Milman (1791 – 1868)



Collect for Palm Sunday

God of all-redeeming grace, in your great love you gave your only Son to die for the sins of the whole world.
Help us by your Holy Spirit to worship you with reverence,
and to enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you bring us life and immortality;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm set for today: Psalm 118 v 1 – 2, 19 – 29

Gospel Reading set for today: Luke 19 v 28 – 40

To think about

Read the Gospel passage again – slowly – and imagine being there as part of the crowd.

If you have a palm cross you may like to hold it or wave it in the next song. Otherwise, you can improvise with a small branch or large leaf from the garden or, perhaps, make yourself a cross out of paper (there are instructions for an origami version readily available on the internet).

Hymn StF 263 SOF 189

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Lord, we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise; be exalted, O Lord, my God!
Hosanna in the highest!

Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings! Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!
Lord, we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise; be exalted, O Lord my God!

Glory to the King of kings!

Carl Tuttle (born 1953) CCL no. 5365402

Message from a Circuit friend

Most of our days are, hopefully, fairly ordinary. There might be special occasions we can look forward to, such as birthdays, weddings, holidays and so on, but they are exceptions rather than the rule.

Each of the two readings for today, are for or about one of these special times. The psalm is written to be sung or recited during a procession to the Temple during festivals, and in verse 27 there are mentions of branches in people's hands. The 'gate of the Lord' and the 'chief cornerstone' also feature; these could be symbolic of the way of salvation opened by God to the people. Regardless, it sets the scene for a noisy, moving festival, fitting in well with the time when Jesus entered Jerusalem.

The special event in the Luke extract tells the well-known story of Jesus arriving on the outskirts of Jerusalem in the week before the Passover. Found in slightly different forms in all four gospels, the event is of vital importance. This is a time when most people walked the final approach to the city on foot.

Jesus, always prepared to be different, acquired a donkey and used that, different again as there are no other references to Jesus riding such a creature. Word had spread about the activities of Jesus over the

past three years, and he was welcomed by a large crowd of his followers, interestingly called disciples, who cheered him, lay their cloaks on the road before him and waved palm branches in celebration. However, it was what they chanted that raised the objections of the Pharisees, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord'. What was it that got them to use the word 'King'? Surely, they were aware that they had a king, in Herod, and he in turn was controlled by the Roman governor, Pilate. This was a political statement, and a dangerous one at that, hence the Pharisees telling Jesus to stop the crowds saying this. As an aside, it seems interesting that the Pharisees were in the crowd. Remember that the Jews were a conquered race, ruled, quite harshly, by the Romans. Was Jesus a new revolutionary leader intending to free them from this rule? Was he a military leader coming into the city as a precursor to liberating them? Or were they just pleased to see such a well-known prophet (as they saw him) coming to the city? We'll never know, but surely his arrival on a donkey, with no armed forces at his side, should have shown them the truth. Jesus had not come to free them from the Romans, but from Sin. He came as a humble Messiah, not a war-like one. And he came not just as king of the Jews, but to people of all races and places. He brings the gift of life to us when we commit our lives to him. So, Palm Sunday was a special day for the Jews in Jerusalem, and is a special day for us too. Let us celebrate as they did!

John Hull (Local Preacher, Circuit Steward and member of Beetley Methodist Church)

Prayers of Intercession

At the start of Holy Week, we pray for the people of Ukraine and for all those involved in the 30 – 40 places that have war and/or conflict situations across the world. We pray for Afghanistan and for people in the 40 or so countries that have severe hunger and malnutrition problems.

We pray for our own country and for all those who are currently suffering from the omicron version of Covid-19 as it rampages through our communities.

We pray for all those we know who need our prayers today, for whatever reason...

Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...

Hymn StF 264 SOF 384

Make way, make way, for Christ the King / in splendour arrives;
fling wide the gates and welcome him / into your lives.

*Make way (Make way), make way (make way), for the King of kings (for the King of kings);
make way (Make way), make way (make way), and let his Kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal / the prisoners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance / the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy hearts / who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown / he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him / as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him / their thrones must fall!

Graham Kendrick (b 1950) CCL no. 5365402



May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.

Circuit News: As part of a visit to the East Anglia Methodist District, this year's President of Conference, Rev Sonia Hicks, will be making a flying visit to 'pioneering' projects in our Circuit (projects where we have people who are on the Methodist Pioneering Pathways scheme. This will mean that the President visits The Hive at Great Cressingham, our community project at Blakeney, and the heritage for mission initiatives at Walsingham. Sonia will be given lunch at Swaffham MC. We cannot extend open invitations (as the visits are not general ones) but we will show photos afterwards, and we will be very grateful for prayer support on Friday May 6th.

District News: The District Synod on April 2nd discussed important issues including Justice in the world, Equality in the Church, initiatives known as 'New Places for New People', and a recently launched link between our District and the Harare West District in Zimbabwe. More details about the last named coming soon.