

PALM SUNDAY

ENTRANCE HYMN

GREETING

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

Let us stand with Christ in his suffering.

Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.

Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.

He was despised; he was rejected, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. **He has carried our sorrows.**

He was pierced for our sins, bruised for no fault but ours.
He has carried our sorrows.

His punishment has won our peace, and by his wounds we are healed. **He has carried our sorrows.**

We have all strayed like sheep, but the Lord has laid on him the guilt of us all. **He has carried our sorrows.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Compassionate God, your love finds full expression in the gift of Jesus Christ your Son, who willingly met betrayal and death to set us free from sin. Give us courage to live obediently in these days until we greet the glory of our risen Saviour. Amen.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

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? (**50: 4 – 9a**)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church,
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Refrain: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly. For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed. **Refrain.**

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours, a dismay to those of my acquaintance; when they see me in the street, they avoid me. I am forgotten like a corpse, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot. **Refrain.**

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life. But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, “You are my God.” **Refrain.**

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me.” **Refrain.**

PSALM 31

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

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. (2: 5 – 11)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church,
Thanks be to God.

HYMN BEFORE THE GOSPEL:

HE CAME RIDING ON A DONKEY

He came riding on a donkey,
He came riding into town.
Slow and easy kind of lowly
He came riding with the dawn.
His disciples walked beside him,
Staying close, a little shy;
Not too sure where he would guide them,
On to live or on to die.
But all the morning sang his praises,
Waking birds and dancing wind,
Here he is, the Son of David,
Riding on to take his throne.

Then the children gathered, singing
shouts of laughter, bursting cheer.
In the streets their song was ringing,
“Hosannas” filled the morning air.
Timid adults strained to see him,
Caught the Spirit, joined the song,
Spread their cloaks along before him,
Branches flashing in the sun.
So all the city sang his praises,
Waking streets and dancing crowd,
Here he is, the Son of David,
Our Messiah, Son of God.

In our fasting, and our feasting,
Called to follow on his way;
Called to walk his road to Easter,
Called to live his cross today.
Hosanna to the Son of David,
Hosanna in the heavens above;
Blest is he who comes to save us,
Blest is he who brings his love.
Let us join to sing his praises,
Open hearts and souls to God,
He is with us, Son of David,
God's Messiah, Christ the Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' 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, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' 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, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why,

what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Crucify him!’ 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, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ 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. 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, ‘Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!’ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, ‘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.’ 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, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, ‘Listen, he is calling for Elijah.’ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him

down.’ 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, ‘Truly this man was God’s Son!’
MARK 15:1-39

The Gospel of Christ
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God,
We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With faith and love and in union with Christ, let us offer our prayers before the throne of grace, saying, Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Have mercy on your people, for whom your Son laid down his life. Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations and have pity on those torn apart by division. Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name’s sake and deliver them from evil. Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Look in mercy upon all who suffer and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation, remembering those on the Ascension Prayer cycle. Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Bring comfort to the dying and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory. Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Give rest to the departed, especially ... and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting. Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Gracious God, you have established your rule over the human heart, not by force but by the servant example of Jesus Christ. Move us by your Spirit to join the joyful procession of those who confess Christ Jesus with their tongues and praise him with their lives. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

Silence is kept

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have failed you as did your first disciples. We ask for your mercy and your help.

When we take our ease rather than watch with you: Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we bestow a kiss of peace yet nurse enmity in our hearts: Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we strike at those who hurt us rather than stretch out our hands to bless: Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we deny that we know you for fear of the world and its scorn: Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us. **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

May God forgive you by the death of his Son and strengthen you to live in the power of the Spirit all your days. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

Christ is our peace.

He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We gather in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!

Let every hill and valley a level road appear.

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word.

God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king.

Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing.

God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you.

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word.

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king.

Your king, yet every nation its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow before you; their voices join your singing:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word.

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding.

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in every generation, and your word endures for ever.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, with the fellowship of saints and the company of heaven, we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you and singing,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought, but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost.

Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour’s sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.**

**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 OF THE BREAD

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

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION HYMN

CHOIR ANTHEM

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

(Those with palms hold up their palms while this prayer is said by the presider)

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 is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hosanna to the Son of David

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion, meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass. Ride on in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice. Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever; And the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre. You have loved righteousness and hated evil. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

HYMN

DISMISSAL

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Acknowledgements:(a) from 'Trial Use Collects for Years A, B, and C etc. Anglican Church of Canada', the collect of the day. Psalm 31: 9 - 16 is from 'A Liturgical Psalter. General Synod 2016 Edition. For trial use within the Anglican Church of Canada.'. Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 3. (b) from the Church of England's *Common Worship* (2006): greeting, 270, 269; an affirmation of faith, 100; confession, 261; introduction to the peace, 265; prayer at the presentation of the gifts, 274; introduction to the Lord's Prayer, 232; breaking of the bread, 232, invitation to communion, 233; prayer over the palms final anthem, 269, 270 ; (c) *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), prayers of the people, alt., 381, and the Lord's Prayer.