

# Palm Sunday

## LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Readings for Year C

### INTROIT HYMN

- Ride on, ride on in majesty!**  
**Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry;**  
**Thy humble beast pursues his road**  
**With palms and scattered garments**  
**strowed.**
- Ride on, ride on in majesty!**  
**In lowly pomp ride on to die;**  
**O Christ, thy triumphs now begin**  
**O'er captive death and conquered sin.**
- Ride on, ride on in majesty!**  
**The wingèd squadrons of the sky**  
**Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes**  
**To see the approaching sacrifice.**
- Ride on, ride on in majesty!**  
**Thy 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 God, thy power, and reign.**

In the name of the Father, and of ✠ the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All respond: 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 Palm Sunday Liturgy.*

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 to be blessed.*

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die: bless ✠ these palms, that they may 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 people and their palms are sprinkled with holy water.*

### PALM GOSPEL

*Lk 19.28-40*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no-one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near – already on the way down the Mount of Olives – the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

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

*The priest introduces the PALM PROCESSION.*  
Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

*All follow, singing the PROCESSIONAL HYMN.*  
*This hymn may be curtailed or repeated as necessary.*

**R/. All glory, laud and honour  
To thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring.**

1. **Thou art the King of Israel,  
Thou David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's name comest,  
The King and blessed One. R/.**
2. **The company of angels  
Are praising thee on high,  
And mortal men and all things  
Created make reply. R/.**
3. **The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before thee went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before thee we present. R/.**
4. **To thee before thy passion  
They sang their hymns of praise;  
To thee, now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise. R/.**
5. **Thou didst accept their praises,  
Accept the prayers we bring,  
Who in all good delightest,  
Thou good and gracious King. R/.**
6. **Do thou direct our footsteps  
Upon our earthly way,  
And bring us by thy mercy  
To heaven's eternal day. R/.**
7. **Within that blessed City  
Thy praises may we sing,  
And ever raise hosannas  
To our most loving King. R/.**

*All remain standing for the COLLECT.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards mankind 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 lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*Isa 50.4-9a*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a 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 is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 31*

**R/.** My trust is in you, O Lord: you are my God.  
*(All repeat)*

Be gracious to me, O Lord,  
for I am in distress;  
my eye is wasted from grief,  
my soul and my body also. **R/.**

For my life is spent with sorrow,  
and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of my misery,  
and my bones waste away. *R.*

I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
a reproach to my neighbours,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me. *R.*

I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.  
I hear the whispering of the crowd, fear is all  
around;  
they scheme together to take away my life. *R.*

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.  
I have said, 'You are my God.  
Rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and in your loving kindness save me.' *R.*

SECOND READING *Php 2.5–11*  
A reading from the letter of Paul to the  
Philippians.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is  
yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was  
in the form of God, did not count equality  
with God a thing to be grasped, but made  
himself nothing, taking the form of a servant,  
being born in the likeness of men. And being  
found in human form, he humbled himself by  
becoming obedient to the point of death, even  
death on a cross. Therefore God has highly  
exalted him and bestowed on him the name  
that is above every name, so that at the name  
of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven  
and on earth and under the earth, and every  
tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to  
the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN— **712** *Celebration Hymnal*

*We remain standing for the long Passion  
Reading; but if you may find this difficult, you  
are advised to sit from the start.*

ACCLAMATION

*Php 2.8,9*

***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.***

PASSION READING

*Lk 22.39–23.48*

*The congregation are asked to join in **clearly**  
with the parts **► shown like this.***

*Evangelist*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.

Jesus came out and went, as was his  
custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the  
disciples followed him. And when he came  
to the place, he said to them:

*Jesus*

Pray that you may not enter into temptation.

*Evangelist*

And he withdrew from them about a  
stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed:

*Jesus*

Father, if you are willing, remove this cup  
from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but  
yours, be done.

*Evangelist*

And there appeared to him an angel from  
heaven, strengthening him. And being in  
an agony he prayed more earnestly; and  
his sweat became like great drops of blood  
falling down to the ground. And when he  
rose from prayer, he came to the disciples  
and found them sleeping for sorrow, and  
he said to them:

*Jesus*

Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that  
you may not enter into temptation.

*Evangelist*

While he was still speaking, there came a  
crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the  
twelve, was leading them. He drew near to  
Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him:

*Jesus*

Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

*Evangelist*

And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said:

*Disciples*

Lord, shall we strike with the sword?

*Evangelist*

And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said:

*Jesus*

No more of this!

*Evangelist*

And he touched his ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him:

*Jesus*

Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

*Evangelist*

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said:

*Servant*

This man also was with him.

*Evangelist*

But he denied it, saying:

*Peter*

Woman, I do not know him.

*Evangelist*

And a little later someone else saw him and said:

*Bystander 1*

You also are one of them.

*Evangelist*

But Peter said:

*Peter*

I am not.

*Evangelist*

And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted:

*Bystander 2*

Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.

*Evangelist*

But Peter said:

*Peter*

I do not know what you are talking about.

*Evangelist*

And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. They also blindfolded him and kept asking him:

*Guards*

Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?

*Evangelist*

And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said:

*Elders*

If you are the Christ, tell us.

*Jesus*

If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

*Elders*

Are you the Son of God, then?

*Jesus*

You say that I am.

*Elders*

What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.

*Evangelist*

The whole company of the elders then arose and brought Jesus before Pilate. And they began to accuse him:

*Elders*

We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.

*Evangelist*

And Pilate asked him:

*Pilate*

Are you the King of the Jews?

*Jesus*

You have said so.

*Evangelist*

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds:

*Pilate*

I find no guilt in this man.

*Evangelist*

But they were urgent, saying:

*Elders*

He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.

*Evangelist*

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them:

*Pilate*

You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him.

*Evangelist*

But they all cried out together:

*Crowd*

► **Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas.**

*Evangelist*

This was a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting:

*Crowd*

► **Crucify him, crucify him!**

*Evangelist*

A third time he said to them:

*Pilate*

Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.

*Evangelist*

But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said:

*Jesus*

Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your

children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!" Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us", and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

*Evangelist*

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said:

*Jesus*

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

*Evangelist*

And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him:

*Crowd*

▶ **He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!**

*Evangelist*

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine:

*Soldiers*

If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!

*Evangelist*

There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him:

*Criminal 1*

Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!

*Evangelist*

But the other rebuked him:

*Criminal 2*

Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

*Jesus*

Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

*Evangelist*

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Then Jesus called out with a loud voice:

*Jesus*

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

*Evangelist*

And having said this he breathed his last.

*(All keep silence awhile.)*

*Evangelist*

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God:

*Centurion*

Certainly this man was innocent!

*Evangelist*

And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no-one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

*The INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. This response is made to each petition:*

℣. Let us pray to the Lord.

℟. **Lord, have mercy.**

*The priest concludes the Intercessions.*

Lord God, be near to your people in their need, and through the suffering and death of your Son Jesus Christ may we receive your mercy, forgiveness and love.

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

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*All stand as the priest introduces the PEACE.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN— **552**

*The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.*

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Lord, through the suffering of your only-begotten Son, may we be reconciled to you; so that we, who merit nothing by our deeds, may by your compassion receive the fruits of this one perfect sacrifice; through Christ our Lord. **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 him thanks and praise.**

*The PREFACE follows.*

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

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

*All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim:*

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**

**You are \* the Saviour of the world. (\* repeat)**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:*

... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## RITE OF COMMUNION

*The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who 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 priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is sung.*

**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.**

*The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.*

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.

*Holy Communion is distributed.*

COMMUNION HYMN— **197**

*The priest says the POST-COMMUNION 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.**

**CONCLUSION**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

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.**

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN— **801**

*The service may be followed by the ANGELUS.*

∨. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:  
℞. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**  
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death.**

∨. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:  
℞. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**  
Hail Mary ...

∨. And the Word was made flesh:  
℞. **And dwelt among us.**  
Hail Mary ...

∨. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:  
℞. **That we may be made worthy of the  
promises of Christ.**

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross ✠ be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

13.4.25