



A LITURGY FOR

PALM
SUNDAY

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INTRODUCTION

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of 'Holy Week', the high-point of the Church calendar, in which we celebrate the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, riding a donkey from the Mount of Olives to the acclaim of the crowds, fulfils messianic prophecies and gives expression to his kingship. His triumph is not complete until he has been crucified and raised from the dead. On this day Jesus is hailed by the pilgrim crowds, reflecting their expectation of liberation by a king of David's dynasty. The events of Palm Sunday, while confirming the identity of Jesus as the heir of David, are the prelude to a sequence of events in which popular Jewish notions of messiahship are quite fundamentally reinterpreted: Jesus is deserted, crowned with thorns, nailed to the cross, and buried in the tomb of a stranger, before he is raised to glory, his kingship universal and eschatological.

In light of this, the liturgy of Palm Sunday has two emphases: the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and the Passion as a whole, of which this forms the prelude.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

This liturgy is designed to be done involving multiple people - you may wish to look over the liturgy and decide who is going to lead each section with the others joining in in the words in **bold**.

However, due to COVID-19 it is impossible for some to worship in the same place as others. In this instance say both the **bold** and the rest of the text.

Words in *italics* indicate instructions to be followed.

THE LITURGY OF PALM SUNDAY

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

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.

THE GREETING

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

INTRODUCTION

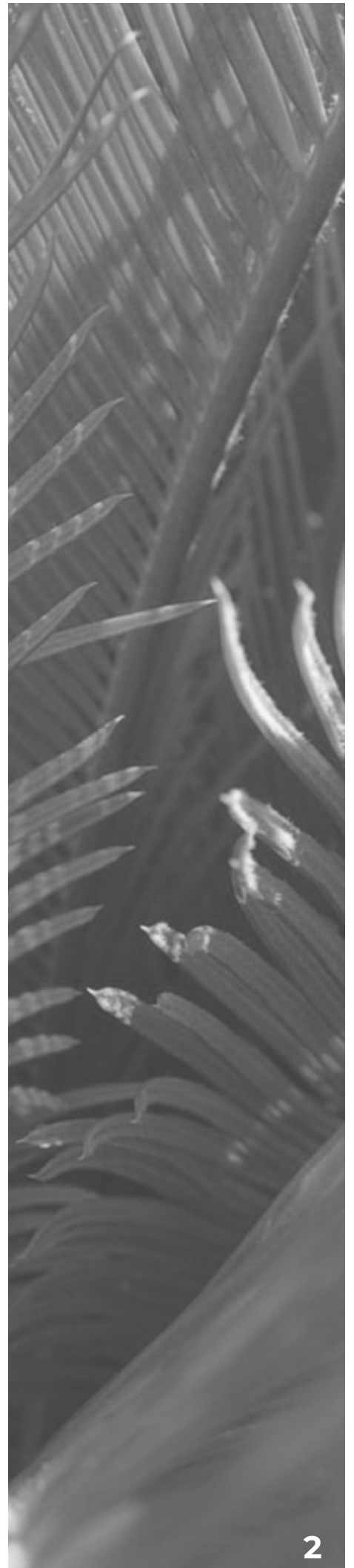
Dear friends in Christ, in our observation of Lent we have been preparing, by self-examination and spiritual discipline, to celebrate the mystery of our Lord's death and resurrection. In baptism we are marked with the cross of Christ. Today we begin the solemn celebration of our salvation through his death on the cross and his resurrection to glory. We now recall our Lord's entry as king into Jerusalem, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us follow him, that, as we died with Christ in our Baptism so we may share his risen life.

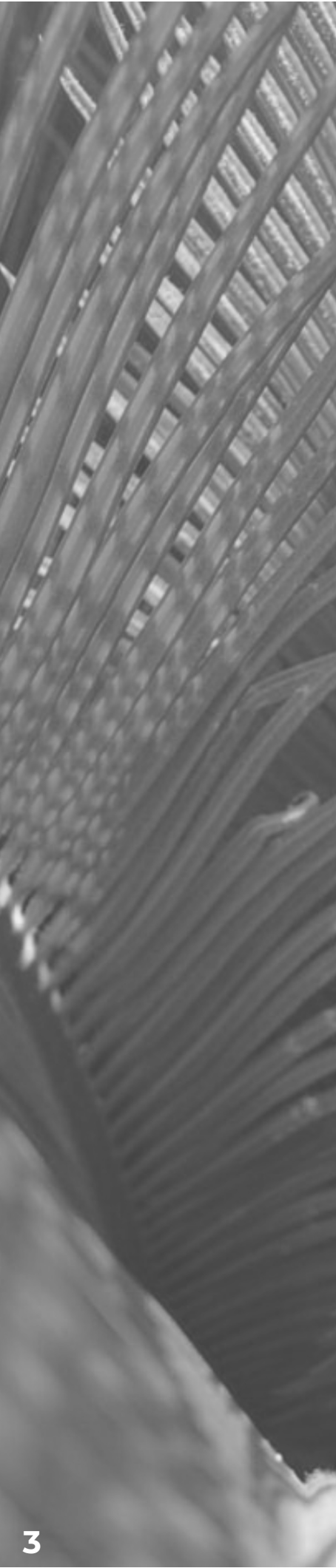
THE PALM GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21.1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

21 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he





will send them at once.” ⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵ “Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹ And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PALMS

If you have palm leaves in your garden or any ornamental grasses, or have printed out some palms online then lay them down outside your front door to welcome Christ as king into your home.

Almighty and everlasting God,
may these palms for us
a sign of Christ’s victory over sin and death;
and may we who have been baptised in his name,
worship him as king, obey him as Lord,
and follow him in the way of the Cross,
which leads to eternal life.
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

HYMN: RIDE ON, RIDE ON IN MAJESTY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAh1lzSQ3P4>

THE COLLECT

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.
Amen.

THE PASSION READING: MATTHEW 26:14-27:66

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 exalted him
and given him the name that is above every name.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew.

*You can either open you Bible to read this, or go to
the following web address and listen:*

<https://tinyurl.com/tqq835t>

This is the Passion of the Lord.

HYMN: ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOUR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2vnmHE-flA>

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For Christian people,
that through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure or sorrow, feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

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

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 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.

HYMN: HOSANNA (PRAISE IS RISING)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioL62cqH3iM>

THE DISMISSAL

May the Father,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life.

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.

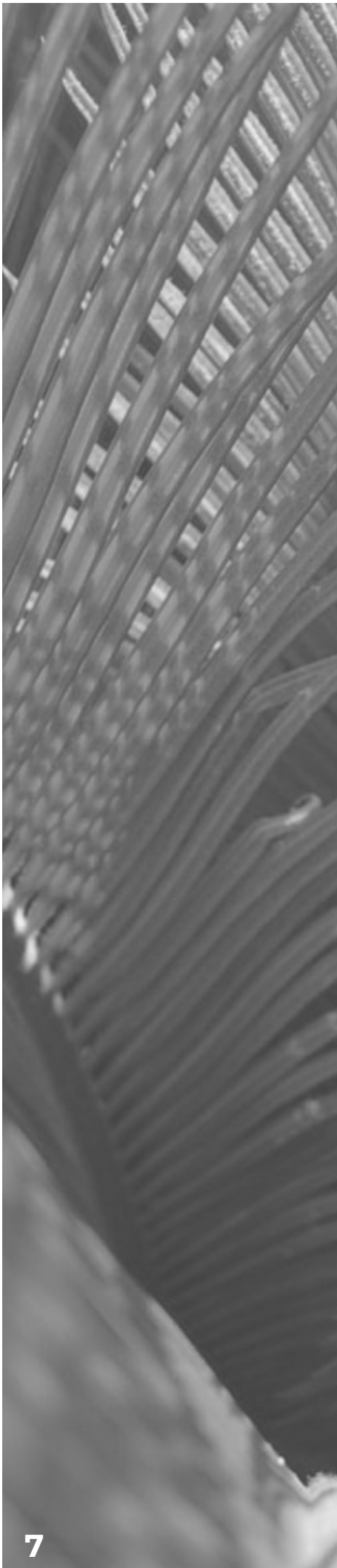
May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ
that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be smong us and remain with us always.

Amen





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