

Palm Sunday Service



Hymn

All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and Blessed One.

The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.

To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

*St Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821)
translated by John Mason Neale (1811-1866)*

Prayer:

Thank you God for your triumphal entry into our world each and every day.
We give you thanks and praise for who you are, for all you have created, all you are creating.
Thank you for sending Jesus, who showed us your love for all creation, your love for us.
He opened our eyes to see your kingdom come here on earth and to see where we can bring your kingdom in each day.
Give us your vision that we may make known your entry into our world as the King of Glory as the King of Peace.
God of great deeds, change our hearts to be your heart, our hands to be your hands,
our arms, to be your loving arms for all who need your presence.
Amen.

Confession:

Jesus rode into Jerusalem not as a conquering king but in humility, the Servant King, ready to complete the task for which he had walked this world. Forgive us those times when we think too highly of ourselves and remind us always that you ask from us lives dedicated to service, to you and to our neighbours, wherever and whoever they might be. Enable us to take off our cloaks of self-righteousness and lay them down at your feet.
It from God in and through Christ that we hear the precious words of grace, that our sins are forgiven.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
Now and for ever.
Amen.

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

A Word

You know that L'Oréal cosmetic advert that says 'because we're worth it'? Hang on to that thought.

Jesus enters the city on a colt. Jesus enters and is among God's people that they might know and see the presence of God.

To judge the full significance of this we go to John's gospel and then the Old Testament. John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." The word "dwelt" in this verse (Greek, σκηνώω) takes us back to the Old Testament wilderness wanderings of Israel where the glory of God dwelt among the people in a movable tent called the Tabernacle. What it means is that God pitched his tent among us. Those of you who camp understand the closeness and those who haven't understand the imagery.

As God's presence was in the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:34), so Jesus dwelt among people.

In Jesus, God pitched His tent among us for thirty-three years. The Tabernacle that God instructed Moses to erect for Him in the wilderness foreshadowed the coming Christ in many ways.

The Tabernacle was a temporary dwelling place for the glory of God. So it was when Jesus came to earth. His stay was but a brief one and like the Tabernacle Jesus did not stay in one place but moved among and with God's people.

The Tabernacle was the place where God met with his people and it was called the "tent of meeting." So those who came to Jesus met with God.

The Tabernacle was the place where the Law was preserved and Jesus was the culmination of the Law and the prophets.

The Tabernacle was the place where sacrifice was made. We know what that means.

As Jesus enters the city, he brings in and of himself the presence of God into the very lives of God's people.

Not just a man on a donkey, no the whole glory and presence of God come to us all, to be with us and amongst us and why?

Because we're worth it.

Hymn

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.

*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.*

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

*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*

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

*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*

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

Intercessions:

Let us pray for all people everywhere according to their needs.

O Lord, Christ and Saviour, we pray for people of every race and belief, and in every kind of need: make your ways known on earth, your saving power among nations.

We pray for the Church, and all who call themselves Christians, that they may go forward in unity and strength. We pray for courage and wisdom to appear foolish by standing up for our faith when it is challenged. Guide us all in our ministries as we journey through life, strong in the knowledge that Christ, by his Passion, conquered death that we might have life.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for people in parts of the world where life is precarious, whether through poverty, disease, oppression, or war. We pray for the nations, and our own, so affected by this present pandemic.

We pray that the time may be hastened when there is peace on earth and goodwill between all people.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer in mind or body and for those who care for them. We pray for the sick; for those who mourn; for those without faith, hope or love.

We pray for our key workers who offer so much of themselves in this present time of trial.

We pray for any known to us who are in special need of our prayers at this time, especially those known personally to us. We remember them now in a moment of silence

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died. We remember.....

Loving God, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, oh,
we are marching in the light of God,
we are marching, oh,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are living in the love of God,
we are living in the love of God.
We are living in the love of God,
we are living in the love of God.
We are living, oh,
we are living in the love of God,
we are living, oh,
we are living in the love of God.

We are moving in the power of God,
we are moving in the power of God.
We are moving in the power of God,
we are moving in the power of God.
We are moving, oh,
we are moving in the power of God,
we are moving, oh,
we are moving in the power of God.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukha kwenkhos.
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukha kwenkhos nyen' kwenkhos'.
Siya' hamba hamba, siyahamba,
hamba siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siya' hamba hamba, siyahamba,
hamba siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

South African traditional
v. 1 Anders Nyberg (b. 1955)
vv. 2, 3 Andrew Maries (b. 1949)

Blessing:

May the blessing of God,
who resides in our hopes and our dreams grant us peace.
May the blessing of Jesus,
Who rides to wild acclaim and waving palm branches grant us peace.
May the blessing of the Spirit,
Who holds us through our fears and our worries grant us peace.
May our triune God bless us and now and evermore.
Amen.