



St Paul &
St Stephen
Gloucester

**PALM
SUNDAY**



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

Introduction

There are two parts to our service today: the first is the procession, the second is the commitment we make to walk with Christ during this Holy Week towards the cross. The procession is the first commemorative liturgical action of Holy Week: by it we begin to remember the events of the last week of Jesus' ministry. As we process around the church we offer praise to Christ our King, and express our readiness to take up our own cross and follow our crucified and risen Lord, as we go with him to the place of suffering and death.

As part of the service we will approach the cross as a sign of our willingness to walk the way of the cross with Jesus; our willingness to travel towards all that we fear, the evil in the world around us, and our own weaknesses and failure just as he did for us. For the cross is the sign that nothing in the world or in us could ultimately defeat him and that peace and new life will unfold before us.

We tell your story
We follow in your footsteps
Lead us into Holy Week.

We walk towards the city
We wait in the garden
Lead us onto holy ground.

We journey towards death
We hope for resurrection
Lead us into holy joy. Amen. *Ruth Burgess*

WE GATHER

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

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.

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.

Blessing of the Palms

*The people hold up palms or branches while this prayer is said by the
president.*

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.

The Palm Gospel

When the Gospel is announced, the reader says:

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A Voice Cries

Hosanna! Hosanna! Your King is among you: sound the trumpet, clap your hands, wave the palms high!

Hosanna in the highest heaven.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Amen.

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

Let us go forth!

We process into the church singing as we go and waving our palms. When we get to church please gather in the sanctuary around the cross as far as you are able.

At the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Come, let us walk with Jesus

along the path of sorrow through the City of David.

Behold, he is walking towards Calvary

bent under the weight of the rugged cross.

He stumbles, falls, rises and stumbles.

From place to place, bleeding yet blessing.

Lo, Jesus walks to his death for us
as we stand by and jeer at him.

Shall we help carry the cross?

Shall we be like Simon of Cyrene?

Come let us walk the walk of Jesus

as he walks to his death to bring us life. Amen.

You may like to touch the cross as a sign of your willingness to walk the way of the cross with Jesus this Holy Week and Easter.

We return to our places, singing Make Way.

The Collect

We remain sitting or kneeling while we say together the Collect, a prayer that sums up our worship today. It can be found on the front of the newsletter.

WE LISTEN AND RESPOND

The Gospel of the Passion

When the Gospel is announced, the president says:

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

There is silence and stillness for a while.

We sing a hymn or song.

We pray for others

Please feel free to sit or kneel.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The Intercessions may end with the following...

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE CELEBRATE

We share the Peace

The president may introduce the Peace with a suitable sentence, and then says:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

A greeting of peace is exchanged.

A hymn or song is sung.

The Collection is taken and the gifts of bread, wine and money are brought to the altar.

We may also hear from the children as they bring their own offering.

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.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come,
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,

and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life,
Lord Jesus come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour, glory and power be yours
forever and ever. Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught, so we 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

The President breaks the consecrated bread.

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

We sing:

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty
who was and is and is to come
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.**

Giving of Communion

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.

We receive communion. Please come forward to the steps or the side rail if you are able. All are welcome but if you do not wish to receive, please come for a blessing instead. If you are unable to come forward then please do tell one of the stewards and we will bring the bread and wine to you in your seat.

During and after communion, hymns or songs may be sung. We remain

seated for these. Feel free to join in, or just to listen.

If you would like someone to pray with you, about anything at all, there will be someone available to do so in the corner of the church by the war memorial during communion.

After Communion

We all say together:

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.

The Notices for the week are given. We stand to sing our final hymn or song.

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

This or another Blessing is said

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
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.

***Please leave this service booklet in
church for the use of others.***

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