



## **Jesus Comes to the City**

### **A Liturgy for Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday is the day when Jesus enters Jerusalem – a day of processions and crowds, shouting and singing. This Palm Sunday is very different: each of us will need to find ways of journeying with Jesus in our scattered places – ‘together, apart’, in and around our homes.

#### **What you'll need**

As well as this booklet, you might want to gather together:

- A candle, and something to light it with
- A Bible if you'd like to follow the readings
- A palm cross or a branch of a tree or bush (small or large – you choose!)

#### **Gathering**

*You might want to light a candle as we begin our time of prayer and worship.*

*Holding your palm cross or tree branch, we say together*

Jesus... Christ... Messiah.... our true and humble King:  
let us welcome you as you come to our city;  
let us run with you as you press on to your passion;

let us scatter not just branches in your path,  
but spread our hearts before you, so that you,  
God who cannot be contained,  
may make your home in us.

**Amen.**

**Song: Ride on, Ride On in Majesty**

### **A Litany of Triumph and Sorrow**

- 1 Jesus comes in triumph,  
to a city where people are gathered in festival.
- 2 **He comes to challenge power and vested interests, to  
overturn status and wealth.**

**Come, Lord Jesus. Hosanna in the highest!**

- 1 He comes in celebration  
with a royal welcome, declaring God's reign of love.
- 2 **He comes to rejection,  
to the fearful and proud who sacrifice him  
to preserve their power.**

**Come, Lord Jesus. Hosanna in the highest!**

- 1 He comes to acclamation,  
to people waving and shouting praises, a  
procession of joy.
- 2 **He comes to abuse,  
to shouts of crucifixion, false trial and  
the way of the cross.**

**Come, Lord Jesus. Hosanna in the highest!**

God, our hope of victory whom we constantly betray;  
help us so to recognize your coming that in our clamour  
there may be commitment,  
and in our silence the very stones may shout aloud,  
in your name. **Amen.**

## **Liturgy of the Palms**

Mark 11:1-11

### **Sermon**

**Song: All Glory, Laud and Honour**

### **Affirmation**

In his words and his life, Jesus shows us God's way.  
Let us affirm again our commitment to that way:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn,  
**for they shall be comforted.**

Blessed are the meek,  
**for they shall inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after  
righteousness,  
**for they shall be satisfied.**

Blessed are the merciful,  
**for they shall obtain mercy.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
**for they shall see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
**for they shall be called children of God.**

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**      *(from Matthew ch.5)*

In Jesus, the love of God comes close.  
**We will walk his way.**

## Giving Thanks

*This is the moment in our normal Sunday service where we would gather around God's table and share communion together. Although we long for the time when we are able to do that again, **Jesus promises to be with us wherever we are** – whether we are with other people, or on our own.*

*The prayer that follows is an adaptation of our Eucharistic Prayer for Lent – a prayer of thanksgiving (that's what 'eucharist' means) to God, that any of us can pray.*

Loving God, the world you made is beautiful and fragile. You made us, with all your creatures, and called us to tend the earth with love. But what you made fertile, we have made desert; and when you call us to follow, we have turned away.

You gave us your prophets to challenge us to change our ways, and in the end you gave us Jesus, your Son, to heal and teach and proclaim your kingdom come for all who had lost hope and were thirsty for life.

He made friends with anyone who would listen and loved even his enemies. For these things, he was crucified by the powers-that-be, but you raised him to life by your love, stronger even than death.

Your Holy Spirit strengthens us on the wilderness paths, refreshes us with living water, and inspires us to sing your praise:

**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.**

So with Jesus we praise you, with Jesus we pray for the brokenness of our world, with Jesus we thirst for your kingdom to spring to life among us.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **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 that 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 forever. Amen**

## **The Liturgy of the Passion**

### **Closing Prayers**

*If you have a cross you can hold, you might want to pick it up now as you join in this prayer:*

**Jesus our Friend, your body broken, your life poured  
out for us: help us, who walk with you the way of the  
cross, to learn from you the way of love, to stay close  
to you through your suffering and death and to greet  
you in the Easter dawn.**

We tell your story,  
We follow in your footsteps.

**Lead us onto 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 onto holy joy.**

And may the blessing of God, life-giver, pain-bearer, love-creator,  
be with us, and with all for whom we pray, through this Lent, and  
always. **Amen.**

**Final Song: In Christ Alone**

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