

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Introduction and Welcome

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to celebrate 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.

Here comes your King, riding on a donkey!

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Here enters your King into Jerusalem!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

There lies your king, dying on a cross.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

There your king rests, in a tomb hewn out of rock.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Your Messiah has fallen, how can you still go on?

Hosanna to the Son of David!

This path leads to death, and still you choose to follow him?

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Dedicating the palms

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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**

All hold up their crosses and say

Come, let us follow this Christ, who lives and dies for us, and lives again.

The Liturgy of the Passion

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.

Matthew 26.14 – end of Chapter 27 is read

LITANY

Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." In the name of Jesus, we pray: **Help us to follow you.**

You stood before Pilate, your life condemned, your word rejected, your innocence ignored: **Help us to hear your words of truth and salvation.**

You carried your cross on the wounded stripes of your back, for love of us and for all the world. **Help us to love you and each other.**

The weight of your cross was the weight of our sins which make us stumble and fall. **In our weakness, we turn to you for strength.**

Although you suffered, you still reached out to care for your mother. **May we never be too busy to care for others.**

As you struggled to bear your cross to Calvary, a passer-by was drafted to help you. **Make us willing to help those in need.**

Others also took risks to comfort you. **Strengthen our faith to take loving risks for our needy brothers and sisters.**

Sin weighed heavily upon you as you stumbled along the way. **Forgive us, Lord, for the sins which trip us up.**

Your suffering under the cross caused the women of Jerusalem to weep. **Hear the cry of our hearts as we pray for all who are suffering.**

Nailed to the cross, you took your place among the condemned.
Be alongside us, sinners as we are.

When your sacrifice was complete, you handed your life to the Father, and he did not forsake you. **Keep us close to your cross and death, now and at the hour of our death.**

Faithful friends and loving women took loving care of your lifeless body.
Turn the darkness of death into the brightness of day for those we love.

In the tomb you were laid, but from the tomb you arose.
Be the Lord of the resurrection for us and for all the baptized.

We thank you for your cross and for the depths of your love for us. Help us to bear our cross in the world and follow you until you bring us into your heavenly kingdom; where you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

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

**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**

Dismissal

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.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and for ever. Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.