

Morning Prayer for Palm Sunday

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Welcome and introduction

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.

May Christ, the true, the only light banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

O come, let us sing to the Lord; ☩ let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving ☩ and be glad in him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God ☩ and a great king above all gods. Come, let us worship and bow down ☩ and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God; ☩ we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

May Christ, the true, the only light banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Blessed are you, creator of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. As your dawn renews the face of the earth bringing light and life to all creation, may we rejoice in this day you have made; as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

after Lancelot Andrewes (1626)

Let us pray
The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.
Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so
may the light of your presence, O God, set
our hearts on fire with love for you; now
and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

The Psalm

118:1-2, 19-end

The psalm ends with

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9

Pause

New Testament Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Responses

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
We preach Christ crucified,
the power of God and the wisdom of God.
By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God forbid that I should glory,
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

from Colossians 3

The Gospel Canticle

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born
of the house of your servant David.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ☩
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ☩
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ☩
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of
all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ☩
and to remember his holy covenant.

- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father
Abraham: ☩
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, ☩
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our
life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the
Most High, ☩
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ☩
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God ☩
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, ☩
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in
the beginning is now and shall be
for ever. Amen.**

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born
of the house of your servant David.**

Thought for the day

An Act of Spiritual Communion

We take some time to reflect on the week and on our relationships.

- What good things have come from God this week?
- Where have I fallen short?
- What might I do in the days to come?

You may wish to say or pray

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet
and prayerful; in these days of challenge,
make us stronger in you; in these days of
emptiness, take possession of us; in these
days of waiting, open our hearts to the
mystery of your cross.

Amen.

Prayers

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

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

Lord, graciously hear us.

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

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the unprecedented times we are in, guide the leaders of the nations and especially our own
as they make policies and planning dealing with Covid-19,
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses, care workers and all others who work in the NHS that through their skills
and insight may restore many to health in these dark days,
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those in the darkness, agony of isolation and fearful, gravely sick and dying, those who
mourn, that they may find comfort and encouragement in your love,
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For family, friends far and near and neighbours that they continue to support and care for one
another,
Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

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

Lord, graciously hear us.

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

Lord, graciously hear us.

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

The Collect for this Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race sent
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our
flesh and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience
and humility and also be made partakers of his
resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, 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.**

The Peace

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

Ephesians 2.13,14

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Conclusion

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.