

**Sunday at Glenapp
5th April 2020**

Palm Sundayⁱ



Introduction

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. This was a triumphal entry, but the events of Holy Week offer a stark reminder that this triumphal entry soon turned sour. There was no fairy tale ending; instead the entry into Jerusalem was the prelude to Jesus's betrayal and death.

Opening Responses

Shout Hosanna

Jesus is coming

SHOUT HOSANNA

He's riding on a donkey

SHOUT HOSANNA

Open the gates

SHOUT HOSANNA

Open the ancient doors

SHOUT HOSANNA

Don't be afraid

SHOUT HOSANNA

Wave the branches

SHOUT HOSANNA

Spread out your coats

SHOUT HOSANNA

Peace in heaven

SHOUT HOSANNA

Glory in highest heaven

SHOUT HOSANNA

Lead us into Holy Week

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

Prayer

Gracious God

as we remember this day
how Jesus entered Jerusalem to cries of celebration
help us to welcome him afresh
into our own hearts & lives.

Accept the praise & worship we bring you,
and give us a real sense of expectation
as we look towards his coming kingdom.

Hosanna to the Son of David,
Glory in the highest heaven.

Gracious God,

like your people long ago we do not always see clearly,
our faith shallow & self centred;
we do not understand as we should,
our praise short lived & superficial.

But, we ask, take the faith we offer,
weak though it may be,
and deepen it through this day,
so that we may truly welcome Christ as our King,
and worship him with joyful praises, now & always.

Hosanna to the Son of David,
glory in the highest heaven,
now and always.

Amen

Psalm -118 ^{1-2, 19-29}

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

² Let Israel say:
"His love endures forever."

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord
through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

²³ the Lord has done this,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ The Lord has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

²⁵ Lord, save us!
Lord, grant us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

²⁷ The Lord is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession

up to the horns of the altar.
28 You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Hymn CH4 370 Ride on, ride on the time is right

1 Ride on, ride on, the time is right:
the roadside crowds scream with delight; palm branches mark the pilgrim way
where beggars squat and children play.

2 Ride on, ride on, while well aware
that those who shout and wave and stare are mortals who, with common breath,
can crave for life and lust for death.

3 Ride on, ride on, though blind with tears, though dumb to speak and deaf to
jeers. Your path is clear, though few can tell
their garments pave the road to Hell.

4 Ride on, ride on, God's love demands; justice and peace lie in your hands.
Evil and angel voices rhyme:
this is the man and this the time.

Reading - Matthew 21 1-11 New International Version (NIV) Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ "Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna^[b] to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"^[c]

"Hosanna^[d] in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

¹¹ The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Prayer (Confession)

Lord Jesus Christ, we welcome & praise you this day.
We lift up our voices in glad hosannas.
We joyfully acknowledge you as King of kings and Lord of lords.
Yet we know in our hearts, even as we greet you,
sincere though we may be,
that our worship & commitment is sometimes as weak and shallow as that which
greeted you as you entered Jerusalem long ago.
Son of David
have mercy upon us.

Lord Jesus Christ,
forgive us that we go on making the same mistakes made on that first Palm Sunday.
We profess to follow you
but in our hearts follow our own inclinations.
We are self-centred in our discipleship,
looking as much for what we can receive as give.
We are preoccupied with appearances,
our external show disguising an inner poverty which only you can see.
We are ready to serve when life is good,
but reluctant when it involves the way of sacrifice.
Son of David,
have mercy upon us.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you knew as you entered Jerusalem,
that the welcome of the crowd would turn to rejection,
yet still you came & still you died for them.
We praise you for that truth,
and we thank you that you still come to us,
inviting us to respond and share in your kingdom.
Son of David,
have mercy upon us.

Come again now into our hearts,
cleansing us of all that is evil,
all that is impure & unworthy,
all that keeps us from you.
Son of David,
have mercy upon us.

Come to your Church,
filling it with love,
harmony,
humility
and faith.
Son of David,
have mercy upon us.

Come to your world,
blessing it with peace,
justice,
freedom
and hope.
Son of David,
have mercy upon us.

Lord Jesus Christ,
we welcome you today as the Prince of Peace,
the King of kings,
the Servant of all,
the Lord of all,
all in all!
Son of David,
have mercy upon us for your name's sake.
Amen.

Hymn CH4 399 My Song is Love Unknown

1 My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow,
but people scorned, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend.

3 Sometimes they strew his way,
and his strong praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heaven was his home:
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Prayers for others

Lord Jesus Christ,
You entered Jerusalem in quiet humility,
taking the form of a servant,
even to the point of death on a cross,
emptying yourself so that we may be filled.

Come again now
and establish your kingdom.

Come afresh to our troubled world,
with all its needs,
its tensions,
its problems
& its evil.

Come again now
and establish your kingdom.

Bring healing where there is division,
love where there is hatred,
hope where there is despair,
joy where there is sorrow,
confidence where there is fear,
strength where there is weakness,
healing where there is sickness,
life where there is death.

Come again now
and establish your kingdom.

Lord Jesus Christ,
reach out to your Church and world,
despite the weakness of our faith,
and the rejection of so many.
May your will be done on earth
even as it is in heaven.

Come again now
and establish your kingdom for it is in your name we pray.

Lord of Peace, we remember those living in coronavirus hotspots and those currently in isolation.

May they know your presence in their isolation, your peace in their turmoil and your patience in their waiting.

Prince of Peace you are powerful & merciful let this be their prayer -

May your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in a desperate need.
Help us God our saviour for the glory of your name (Psalm 79:8)

God of all comfort & Counsel,
we pray for those who are grieving, reeling from the sudden loss of loved ones.
May they find your fellowship in their suffering, your comfort in their loss and your hope in their despair.

We name before you those known to us who are vulnerable and scared - the frail, the sick & the elderly.

God of all Comfort you are powerful and merciful, may this be our prayer -

He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again.
On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us
(2 Corinthians 1:10)

God who heals, we pray for all medical, nursing professionals & the support workers aiding them in their work as they deal daily with the intense pressures of this crisis.

Grant them resilience in weariness, discernment in diagnosis, and compassion as they care.

We thank you for the army of researchers working steadily and quietly towards a cure - give them clarity and serendipity.

May this be our prayer -

Sovereign Lord you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power & outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for you
(Jeremiah 32:17)

Reflection Welcome to the City (Wild Goose Publications Ian Cowie)

Lord Jesus,

if only you would come to our city like you did to Jerusalem.

We've some great hymns to sing to welcome you!

Our guitars would be out to lead the singing;

we'd wave our scarves and dance.

You would get a real red-carpet welcome -
five-star treatment.

There would be a real religious revival.

It would be wonderful.

If only you would come here

to our country

to rescue us.

But in case you do,
just one wee word of advice -
stick to religion but be careful.

Don't interfere with politics, or economics, or big business and all that,
and be careful not to make unpopular changes in the way we worship.

Save us from what might happen in the next life, yes,

but leave us to go on our own way,

the way we are used to in this life.

If you get it wrong for our city,

who knows?

We, too, might have to liquidate you.

Hymn CH4 366 Come into the streets with me.

1 Come into the streets with me!
Come to where the crowds will be,
see a strange and gentle king
on a donkey travelling. [Refrain:]

Come and follow my leader,
come and follow my leader,
Jesus Christ is riding by,
come and follow my leader!

2 All the people shout his name,
waving branches, sing his fame,
throw their coats upon his road,
glad to praise the Son of God. [Refrain]

3 If the soldiers draw their swords,
will we dare to sing these words,
be his friends for just a day,
cheer him on, then run away? [Refrain]

4 Jesus goes where things are rough,
Jesus knows when life is tough,
always comes to us, his friends,
so his story never ends. [Refrain]

Closing Prayer

Loving God

Father of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
friend & guide to your people across the ages,
with joy & gladness we praise you.

Draw near to us,
as we draw near to you.

You have shown your mercy,
revealed your love,
and spoken through your prophets.

You have lived among us,
you have shared our life and death,
and you offer to all who truly seek you
the assurance of everlasting life!

Draw near to us,
as we draw near to you.

Loving God,

we thank you for all you have done through Christ,
and we ask you now to help us glimpse more fully
the wonder of his love.

Draw near to us,
as we draw near to you.

As we seek your word, speak to us.
As we confess our faults, have mercy upon us.
As we acknowledge the weakness of our discipleship, cleanse & renew us
through the saving love of Christ.
As we recognise our lack of vision and courage,
inspire & challenge us
through the Holy Spirit.
Draw near to us,
as we draw near to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ⁱ Resources:

Church of Scotland Weekly Worship based on Revised Common Lectionary
Wild Goose Publications
Prayers for all seasons – Nick Rawcett
