

The Eucharist on Palm Sunday with the Bishop of Manchester

Good morning. Welcome to Bishopscourt, here in Salford, where we are about two miles north of Manchester city centre, at the heart of one of the largest urban conurbations and most diverse places in the United Kingdom.

Our worship today is a service of Holy Communion for Palm Sunday, the day that leads us into Holy Week, through which we journey with Jesus Christ to his crucifixion and resurrection.

Our bible passages will be led by the Venerable Karen Lund, the Archdeacon of Manchester, and our intercessions by Lucy Hargraves who is a member of St Peter's Church, Halliwell in Bolton.

We have each recorded the different elements of our service in our own homes. My wife Sue, who is a self-supporting priest in a local parish, will assist me here in the little chapel that forms part of our house. It can hold about 12 people physically, but via the Internet there's no limit to how many of us can join in worshipping God.

Our opening hymn describes the events of the very first Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the crowds came out to greet him. Ride on! ride on, in majesty.

HYMN

Ride on, ride on in majesty

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
thy humble beast pursues his road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
o Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The last and fiercest strife is nigh:
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
in lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Words by H. H Milman
Tune: Winchester New by W. H Monk

THE GREETING

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

The Bishop introduces the service

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.

If you have a palm cross from a previous year's Palm Sunday service, please hold it. You can find out how to make your own palm cross [here](#).

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;
let these crosses 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.

All **Amen.**

THE PALM GOSPEL

Archdeacon Karen

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (21.1-11)

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large

crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN

King of kings, majesty

King of kings, majesty
God of Heaven living in me
gentle Saviour, closest friend
strong deliverer, beginning and end
all within me falls at your throne.

Your Majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before You now
in royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your Majesty.

Earth and Heaven worship You
love eternal, Faithful and True
who bought the nations, ransomed souls
brought this sinner near to your throne
all within me cries out in praise.

Your Majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before you now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve your majesty
I live to serve your majesty.

Words and Music by Jarrod Cooper

VIDEO

*The Bishop pastes the home-made cross to an outside window
When he has done so he prays the Collect*

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.

All **Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Archdeacon Karen

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians (2.5-11)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL OF THE PASSION

Gospel acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore, God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above every name.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. (27.11-54)

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son." The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

This is the Passion of the Lord.

There is no response.

ANTHEM

"There is a Green Hill far away" by Bob Chilcott

SERMON

The Bishop of Manchester

INTERCESSIONS

Led by Lucy Hargraves

Let us pray.

In this time of global uncertainty, I am drawn to scripture from Psalm 46, God is our refuge and strength an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the Holy place where the most high dwells. God is within her; she will not fall. God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall, he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord almighty is with us. The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Loving father I leave to you all those who are feeling isolated or lonely within our communities. May they know your love and peace at this uncertain time. I pray for a new sense of community, like no other. May you give love to strengthen relationships with our neighbours. Also for those struggling with the new family dynamics, may you give them patience and perseverance.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Father, I pray for those in hospitals who are suffering from the virus, please heal them. I pray for quick recoveries, renewed strength and hope in you.

Lord in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

Father, I pray that you will be a source of comfort to those who are grieving loved ones at this time. Bring them your peace and remind them of your loving nature and presence. Psalm 46 says 'Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth'.

I also pray for those families who may be worried about loved ones, who may be elderly, frail and vulnerable. Remind them of your peace and give them a sense of hope during this uncertain period.

Lord in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

Lord I lift to you all those who are more vulnerable and at high risk, protect them and calm their anxieties, give them your peace which surpasses all understanding and renew their minds, so that their thoughts can be fixed on you.

Lord in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

Father, I thank you for those who are returning to the NHS, to support the existing workers. I pray that you will bless them. Protect those workers in the hospitals and also the other key workers who are putting themselves at risk. May they stay healthy and know that you're in control. May you give them strength and resilience during this busy and difficult time. I also pray that you'll provide more resources, so the staff can remain safe and protected in the hospitals. I pray for the researchers who are developing better tests to diagnose the virus and create vaccines to prevent it. Please give them resilience and perseverance to keep going and provide a swift break through.

Lord in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

Lord I pray that you will be with the leaders who are making decisions that will affect families, communities and the country. Provide them with wisdom and clarity to make the right decisions. I also pray that they will choose to invest in long term solutions to prepare for any future outbreaks. I pray for the new hospitals currently being built, that they will be ready and resourced quickly.

Lord in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

Father God I thank you that you have called your people for such a time as this, continue to equip us daily to deal with the difficult circumstances we find ourselves in. May we lean on you and receive your peace that surpasses all understanding. Guard our hearts and minds in your name.

All Amen.

THE PEACE

The Bishop

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.

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

HYMN

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed

Bread of Heav'n, on Thee we feed,
For Thy flesh is meat indeed:
Ever may our souls be fed
With this true and living bread;
Day by day with strength supplied,
Through the life of Him who died.

Vine of Heav'n! Thy blood supplies
This blest cup of sacrifice.
'Tis Thy wounds my healing give:
to Thy cross we look and live.
Thou my life! oh, let me be
rooted, grafted, built on Thee.

Words: Josiah Conder
Tune: Bread of heaven by W. D MacLagan

At the preparation of the table

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.

All Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because, for our salvation,
he was obedient even to death on the cross.
The tree of shame was made the tree of glory;
and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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 now his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
and as we look for the coming of his kingdom,
we make with this bread and this cup
the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord.
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

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 Holy Spirit
and nourish us with the body and blood of Christ,
that we may grow into his likeness
and become a living temple to your glory.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
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 and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please join us if you can in saying together the more traditional words of the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Spiritual communion prayer

Said whilst communion is received

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Amen

HYMN

Alas! And did my Saviour bleed

Alas, and did my Saviour bleed
and did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
for such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown
and love beyond degree.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
the debt of love I owe:
here, Lord, I give myself away.
'tis all that I can do.

Alas, and did my Saviour bleed
and did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head

for such a worm as I?

Words: Isaac Watts

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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.

All **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May the Father,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life.

All **Amen.**

May Christ,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of the cross.

All **Amen.**

May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ
that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Thank you very much for joining us here in the Diocese of Manchester this morning.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

O Jesus, I have promised

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
be Thou forever near me,
my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if Thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if Thou wilt be my Guide.

Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
oh, speak to reassure me,
to hasten, or control;
oh, speak, and make me listen,
thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
to all who follow Thee
that where Thou art in glory
there shall Thy servant be;
and Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in Thy strength alone.
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then to rest receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

Words by J. E Bode
Tune: Wolvercote by W. H Ferguson

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With thanks to Andrew Earis, St Martin's Voices and Katie Ritson for the music recorded for this service.