

Sunday Worship for 28 March 2021

The Sixth Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday)

THE GREETING

Sundiya and Amali Jeremiah

Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

INTRODUCTION

Rev Dr Rebecca Aechtner, Vicar of St Paul's Scotforth, Lancaster and Rev Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Associate Priest and Lecturer, Lancaster University

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
All and also with you.

Welcome in the name of Christ to this Palm Sunday service. I'm Rebecca Aechtner, the Vicar of St Paul's Scotforth in Lancaster, and I'm joined by my husband Anderson Jeremiah. In this time of global pandemic when we can't gather as crowds or sing praises to our King, Palm Sunday reminds us of the beauty and diversity within the Church, of everyone who calls 'hosanna to the highest'. Our liturgy blends together the Church of England with the Church of South India, a Province of the Anglican Communion. We'll go on a procession of sorts as we move around Lancaster worshipping God in different ways and places including St Thomas' Lancaster, Our St Paul's Worship Centre in Hala, Lancaster Priory, and St Aidan's in Gravesend.

BLESSING OF THE PALM CROSSES

We join with Christians throughout the world to mark Christ's entry into Jerusalem 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, untied with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

In the tradition of Palm Sunday, I invite you at home to take up a cross, you can download a palm frond from the internet, you may have an old palm cross laying about, or some greenery, to hand, or, take your hands themselves and make a cross, or sign 'hosanna'.

I invite you now to take up your cross.

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 is a alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God now and for ever

All Amen.

Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the life within you, and Christ's presence in your midst!

All Our eyes shall be opened! The present will have new meaning, and the future will be bright with hope.

Rejoice, people of God! Bow your heads before the One who is our wisdom and strength.

All We place ourselves before our God, that we may be touched and cleansed by the power of God's Spirit.

HYMN

Hosanna

Performed by St Tee's Worship

I see the King of glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes
The whole earth shakes
I see His love and mercy
Washing over all our sin

The people sing
The people sing
Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest

I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith
With selfless faith
I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek

We're on our knees
We're on our knees
Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest.

Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen

Show me how to love
Like You have loved me
Break my heart for what breaks Yours
Everything I am
For Your kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity.

Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest.

Words and Music by Brooke Fraser

THE CONFESSION

Jesus said: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you."

Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask, and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace. Let us open ourself to God's forgiving presence, and confess to God whatever has wounded us or brought injury to others, that we may receive mercy and become ministers of grace for each other.

As followers of Jesus in the world, let us confess our sins:

God of mercy,
**All we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and we are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that has past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ.
Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you our sins,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

Like rain falling gently on parched earth; like the wind blowing through a still forest, like a river flowing through a barren desert, God has poured out mercy, love and compassion on us all. Let us be assured that the almighty God has granted us forgiveness for all our sins and has gifted us the companionship of the Holy Spirit. "On this day the Lord has acted, we will rejoice and be glad in it."

All Amen.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

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.

PSALM

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Rev Claire Cooke, Pioneer Minister, St Paul's

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

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

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

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

The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

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

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

Lord, save us!
Lord, grant us success!

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

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.

You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

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

PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL

Mark 11, from the Link It Up Bible

Read by Sundiya Jeremiah

A reading from The Link-it-Up Bible.

Then the disciples draped their cloaks over the donkey and sat Jesus on its back. And into Jerusalem he rode. Some of the disciples spread more clothes in the road ahead of him. Some people cut palm branches from the trees and spread those in the road as well. And together that crowd shouted, "Blessed is the King who comes in God's name. Peace in heaven! Glory in the highest! Hosanna, save the son of David."

SERMON

Rev Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Associate Priest and Lecturer, Lancaster University

ANTHEM

Pueri Hebraeorum

Sung by Lancaster Priory Consort

*Pueri Hebraeorum
vestimenta prosternebant in via
et clamabant dicentes:
Hosanna Filio David,
benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.*

The Hebrew children
spread their garments in the way,
and cried out, saying:
Hosanna to the Son of David:
blessed is he that cometh
in the name of the Lord.

By Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

THE CREED

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Led by Rev Michael Payne Vicar of St Aidan's in Gravesend

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All 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.

CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, Creator of the world and Giver of all good, we thank you for the earth, our home, and for the gift of life. We thank you for all your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, your grace that sustains us, your discipline that seeks to correct us, your patience that has borne with us, and your love that redeems us. Help us to love you, and to be thankful for all your gifts; serve you and delight in doing your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE BLESSING

Go out into the world united and committed to ever be united. That in your unity, the brokenness of the world may be challenged. That in our unity, we will proclaim the peace and oneness to all the world. The God of peace that surpasses all understanding is and will go with you.

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

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest!

HYMN

My song is love unknown

Sung by St Martin's Voices

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

He came from His blest throne
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know:
But O! my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew His way,
and His sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!"
is all their breath,
and for His death
they thirst and cry.

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.

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.

Words: Samuel Crossman (1623-1683)

Tune: Love Unknown, by John Ireland

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Service led by Rev Dr Rebecca Aechtner, Vicar of St Paul's Scotforth, Lancaster and Rev Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Associate Priest and Lecturer, Lancaster University.

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Music Performed by the Lancaster Priory Consort (Ellen Griffiths, Charlotte Beck, Tom Rose, and Don Gillthorpe), St Tee's Worship (Jono Peatman, Jim Coke and Erin Hales) and St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis.

BSL Interpretation by Gill Behenna.

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