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**COMMON WORSHIP**

**Palm Sunday**

## *The Greeting*

Though we are apart we are drawn together by the Holy Spirit and held together in the love of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### *Opening hymn*

LORD, THE LIGHT of Your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth Your word,  
Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into Your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Graham Kendrick*

*Prayer of Preparation*

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are  
hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Prayers of Penitence*

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing  
and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore to us the joy of your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord  
Grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of  
the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## *The Collect of the Day*

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 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 your Son our Lord,  
Who is alive and reigns with you,  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and forever. Amen.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### *The First Reading*

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same  
mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to  
his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by  
taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human  
likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he  
humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even  
death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave  
him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the  
name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on  
earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue  
acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God  
the Father.

*Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## *Second Hymn*

You are the King of Glory  
You are the Prince of Peace  
You are the Lord of heaven and earth  
You are the Son of righteousness  
Angels bow down before You  
They worship and adore You  
For You have the words of eternal life  
You are Jesus Christ the Lord

Hosanna to the Son of David  
Hosanna to the King of Kings  
Glory in the highest heavens  
Jesus the Messiah reigns

## *The Gospel Reading*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

21 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 to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna 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."

*Matthew 21:1-11 (NIV)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## *The Sermon*

It is a basic principle of Christianity that our God is The God of grace, abundant and immeasurable grace. No matter how hard you try you can never out give God. Whatever we offer him, through his grace he returns immeasurably more. He is the God that turns our thinking upside down and this is the same in worship. Worship is not our gift to God; it is a gift from God.

On Palm Sunday a great crowd of people greeted Jesus as their king, they worshiped him as the messiah. Like us these people would have had many challenges and problems in their lives and there were certainly difficult times to face in the week ahead. But in this moment of worship there was great joy for anyone who was willing to give themselves over to it.

Not being able to meet in our Churches means that worship is different at the moment, but a great many people are going to some considerable efforts to find ways to worship God. As we worship, our God draws us close to himself, we experience a taste of his glory, and receive his peace.

Worship is not our gift to God; it is a gift from God.

## *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake  
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic  
and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



## *Prayers of Intercession*

Lord Jesus,

We thank you for the privilege of being able to worship you. Help us to draw near to you, and to know the peace and joy of your presence.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Father, You love each of us, help us to value all those who are working to care for our needs, doctors and nurses, supermarket workers and farmers. We pray that you will sustain and protect them.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the creativity of industries around the world as they seek to adapt their production to meet our needs today. We pray for the creativity of the Holy Spirit to inspire them in their work.

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Lord God, as we seek to shield the vulnerable in our community, we pray for those who are lonely, grieving, or unwell. Help them to know that they are cared for and give them the gift of your peace.

Merciful Father;

**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

## *The Peace*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

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

### *Third hymn*

There is a green hill far away,  
without a city wall,  
where the dear Lord was crucified,  
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,  
what pains he had to bear;  
but we believe it was for us  
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiv'n,  
he died to make us good,  
that we might go at last to heav'n,  
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
to pay the price of sin;  
he only could unlock the gate  
of heav'n, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,  
and we must love him too,  
and trust in his redeeming blood,  
and try his works to do.

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

The Lord be with you.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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,  
forever 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.**

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

[Great is the mystery of faith:]

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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 Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body  
of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, 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*

*Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.*

**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*

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

*Sharing of Communion*

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

**Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under  
your table.**

**But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we,  
with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

*Post Communion Collect*

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. **Amen**

*Prayer after Communion*

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood  
of your Son Jesus Christ,  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be  
a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## *Final hymn*

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us His Son,  
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give Him the glory, great things He has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus pardon receives. [Refrain]

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]



## *The Blessing*

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and all those whom you love, today and every day. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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