



ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

PALM SUNDAY

29th March 2026

The president and ministers go to the place where the people have assembled. The president greets the people.

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.

People raise up the palms or branches as the president prays,

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 alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 21.1-11

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

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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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Before the procession begins, the president addresses the people with these words:

Let us go forth in peace, praising Jesus our Messiah,

During the procession all hold palms in their hands, and sing.

**All glory, laud and honour,
to thee, Redeemer King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed one.

**All glory, laud and honour,
to thee, Redeemer King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went:
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.

**All glory, laud and honour,
to thee, Redeemer King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

To thee before thy passion
they sang their hymns of praise:
to thee, now high exalted
Our melody we raise.

**All glory, laud and honour,
to thee, Redeemer King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

Thou didst accept their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious king.

**All glory, laud and honour,
to thee, Redeemer King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

*After the procession, when all are in their places,
the president introduces a period of silent prayer
with the words:*

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

The Collect

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 your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Liturgy of the Word First Reading

Isaiah 50.4–9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a
teacher, that I may know how to sustain the
weary with a word. Morning by morning he
wakens- wakens my ear to listen as those who
are taught.
The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not
rebellious, I did not turn backwards.
I gave my back to those who struck me, and my
cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did
not hide my face from insult and spitting.
The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not
been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like
flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend
with me?
Let us stand up together. Who are my
adversaries?

Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare
me guilty? All of them will wear out like a
garment; the moth will eat them up.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.'
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet
I can count every one of my bones.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Second Reading

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.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

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 wingèd squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Thy 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.

The Passion Reading

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.

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

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Matthew.

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 mans 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 governors 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.

Sermon

(Please kneel or sit for)

The Intercession

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

Offertory Hymn

You are the King of Glory,
You are the Prince of Peace,
You are the Lord of heav'n and earth,
You're the Son of righteousness.
Angels bow down before You,
Worship and adore, 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 heaven,
For Jesus the Messiah reigns.**

You are the one who conquered,
Sin and death and pain.
You triumphed over Satan's power
You rose to life again.
Now Lord You reign in glory
Every knee shall bow – for
You have the name above all names
You are Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna to the King of Kings!
Glory in the highest heaven,
For Jesus the Messiah reigns.**

You are the King of Glory
You are God's chosen Son,
You are the heir of everything,
You're the Ever Living One.
Now we bow down before you
Worship and adore – for
You are exalted to God's right hand,
You are Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna to the King of Kings!
Glory in the highest heaven,
For Jesus the Messiah reigns.**

Prayer over the Offerings

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.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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 and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty. The power of the life-giving cross reveals the judgement that has come upon the world and the triumph of Christ crucified. He is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever, our advocate in heaven to plead our cause, exalting us there to join with angels and archangels, 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; 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.

Christ is the bread of life.
When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim you death until you come in glory.

Therefore heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. We bring

before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints, may praise and glorify you forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Trusting in the compassion of God, 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

(The priest breaks the consecrated bread)

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup
We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Sanctuary bell is rung and the Priest takes communion followed by the congregation.

All are welcomed to receive Communion or a Blessing as guided by the Sidespersons.

Communion Hymn

(for which we remain kneeling or seated)

Communion Hymn

Come and see, come and see
Come and see the King of love
See the purple robe and crown of thorns he wears .
Soldiers mock, rulers sneer as he lifts the cruel cross;
Lone and friendless now, he climbs towards the hill.

***We worship at your feet,
Where wrath and mercy meet,
And a guilty world is washed by love's pure stream.
For us he was made sin
Oh, help me take it in.
Deep wounds of love cry out "Father, forgive"
I worship, I worship the lamb that was slain***

Come and weep, come and mourn
For your sin that pierced him there;
So much deeper than the wounds of thorn and nail.
All our pride, all our greed,
All our fallenness and shame;
And the Lord has laid the punishment on him.

***We worship at your feet,
Where wrath and mercy meet,
And a guilty world is washed by love's pure stream.
For us he was made sin
Oh, help me take it in.
Deep wounds of love cry out "Father, forgive"
I worship, I worship the lamb that was slain***

Man of heaven, born to earth
To restore us to your heaven.
Here we bow in awe beneath your searching eyes.
From our tears comes our joy,
From your death our life shall spring;
By your resurrection power we shall rise.

***We worship at your feet,
Where wrath and mercy meet,
And a guilty world is washed by love's pure stream.
For us he was made sin
Oh, help me take it in.***

***Deep wounds of love cry out "Father, forgive"
I worship, I worship the lamb that was slain***

2nd Communion Hymn

Drop, drop, slow tears
And bathe those beautiful feet.
Which brought from heav'n
The news and Prince of peace.

Cease not, wet eyes,
His mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Not let his eye
See sin, but through my tears.

Prayer after Communion

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**

We pray together

**Faithful God,
may we who share this banquet
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our salvation, life and hope,
who reigns as Lord now and for ever. Amen.**

Notices

The Blessing

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

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

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

The Dismissal

Go in peace of Christ
Thanks be to God

Recessional Hymn

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly
 crown,
 When Thou camest to earth for me;
 But in Bethlehem's home was there found no
 room
 For Thy holy nativity.
*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
 There is room in my heart for Thee.*

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
 Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
 But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
 And in great humility.
*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
 There is room in my heart for Thee.*

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word,
 That should set Thy people free;
 But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn,
 They bore Thee to Calvary.
*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
 There is room in my heart for Thee.*

When the heav'ns shall ring, and her choirs shall
 sing,
 At Thy coming to victory,
 Let Thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is
 room,
 There is room at My side for thee."
*My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
 When Thou comest and callest for me.*