

READINGS

Year C*Principal* **Liturgy of the Palms:**

Service Luke 19.28-40
Psalm 118.1-2,19-29

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50.4-9a
Psalm 31.9-16
Philippians 2.5-11
Luke 22.14 - 23.56 or
Luke 23.1-49

Second Psalm 69.1-20
Service Isaiah 5.1-7
Luke 20.9-19

Third Psalms 61, 62
Service Zechariah 9.9-12
1 Corinthians 2.1-12

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.

(or)

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.

POST 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.

HYMN SUGGESTION

Give thanks with a grateful heart – Henry Smith

Give thanks with a grateful heart
 Give thanks to the Holy One
 Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Don
 Give thanks with a grateful heart
 Give thanks to the Holy One
 Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
 And now let the weak say I am strong,
 Let the poor say I am rich
 Because of what the Lord has done for us
 And now let the weak say I am strong
 Let the poor say I am rich
 Because of what the Lord has done for us

Anglican Hymns Old and New (Rev and Enl.) no. 219

SERMON STARTER

*Brigit Kiyaga - Mission
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Palm Sunday is a significant moment in our church calendar where we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Verses 30, and 31 of Luke 19 say: "Go into the next village, where you will find a young donkey that has never been ridden. Untie the donkey and bring it here. If anyone asks why you are doing that, just say, 'The Lord needs it.'" This verse also speaks to us of the generosity of the colt owners. On the back of a colt Jesus entered Jerusalem. When the owner heard the words 'The Lord needs it', which the disciples were summoned to say when asked why it was untied, there was no need for a further conversation. These words were enough to put the owner's minds to rest.

If you have ever wondered if God uses his people to bring about his Kingdom; than this is your passage to turn to. God uses people like you and me to share of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Your gift, your talents, your time, and your resources can be used for his purposes. You are invited to share that what you have been given to those around you and to count it a privilege, like the Macedonian church when asked to contribute to the church in Jerusalem, to share in this way.

SERMON STARTER

When one of the former US presidents came back from one of his visits to his local church, his adviser asked him his thoughts on the sermon. He replied: 'I thought the sermon was carefully thought through, eloquently delivered.' On which the adviser answered: 'You thought it was a great sermon?' 'No,' he replied, 'I thought he failed because he did not ask of us something great.' Today's passage asks us to respond too, perhaps with a first 'yes' to the invitation to love and serve Christ, or perhaps a 'yes' to a renewed sense of purpose and destiny as we offer of ourselves to the King of all Kings. I expect the Jewish people didn't anticipate this type of entry into Jerusalem and would, perhaps, have hoped for a Messiah who came, ready to fight, on a horse. Yet, Jesus' entry was one that was humble and peaceful, like it was promised in Zechariah 9:9. He invites us to step into his footprints, to deny ourselves, take up his cross and follow him (Luke 9:23).

We can only imagine what it would have been like to hold these branches, to shout 'Hosanna' and, to anticipate the Kingdom that he came to establish amid a suffering society. A few days after this historic moment Jesus walks the 'Via Dolorosa' a way of suffering that is described in the verses of Philippians 2:7 'he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.' Where do you picture yourself as Jesus continues to walk this road to Golgotha? Are you amongst the crowd, the children, women, or disciples? Take a moment now to remember these days, these events, that made such an extraordinary impact on your life and the lives of Christians across the Globe.

As we prepare for Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday today is moment to remember the road Jesus walked to the cross. Matt Redman in his song 'Once again' describes it as follows;

'Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice;
you became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life,
and I'm in that place once again,
I'm in that place once again.

And once again I look upon the cross where you died.
I'm humbled by your mercy and I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank you,
once again I pour out my life.

Now you are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow.
But for now I marvel at this saving grace,
and I'm full of praise once again,
I'm full of praise once again.
And once again...'

SERMON STARTER

This 'once again' is a call to all of us, to pause, to be still and marvel at His saving grace. His astonishing love for us, brought us amazing grace. It is a grace that won't let go, against conditions, it is a grace that will see us through the storms of our lives and will bring us to life everlasting.

Today it is my prayer for you and me that we will be surprised by the vastness of his love for us. When you remember the entry he made into Jerusalem, the generosity and obedience of the colt-owners, the request to respond and to worship the King of all Kings, who came to live with and amongst us and gave his life as a ransom for many, may your hearts be filled with thanksgiving for all He has done for you and for me.