

**The Grouped Parishes of
Annahilt and Magherahamlet**

Family Service



Palm Sunday 28 March 2021

**Conducted by the Rector:
The Revd Canon Robert Howard**

The Rector introduces the Service:

Grace, mercy and peace from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

and also with you.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!

Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Hymn CH 217

*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:

The company of angels
are praising thee on high;
and mortal flesh, and all things
created, make reply:

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

To thee, before thy Passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise:

Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King:

The Liturgy of the Palms is introduced with these words:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, today begins the week of all weeks.
This is the week in which we follow our Saviour Jesus Christ on the

way of suffering to the Cross and on the way of victory through the Cross to the Resurrection. Today we gather with the crowds on the road to Jerusalem, to greet our Lord as He begins His journey, to sing His praise and to welcome Him to his city. We rejoice with all our hearts and voices in the knowledge that, if we do not speak out His praises, the stones themselves will sing.

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise!

Those officiating in Church hold palm crosses on behalf of all joining in this Service on-line as the following prayer is said:

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.**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew Chapter 21
beginning at verse 1

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' ⁴This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,
⁵'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.'

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd* spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!'

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' ¹¹The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

¹²Then Jesus entered the temple* and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³He said to them, 'It is written,

"My house shall be called a house of prayer";
but you are making it a den of robbers.'

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard* the children crying out in the temple, 'Hosanna to the Son of David', they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, 'Do you hear what these are saying?' Jesus said to them, 'Yes; have you never read,

"Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise for yourself"?' ¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

Jesus is coming:
Shout Hosanna.

He is riding on a donkey:
Shout Hosanna.

Open the ancient doors:
Shout Hosanna.

Wave the branches:
Shout Hosanna.

Spread out your coats:
Shout Hosanna.

Peace in Heaven:
Glory in the highest Heaven.

ACCLAMATION

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

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

We give you thanks, our God and Father,
for you have created us and you sustain us.
Through your only Son Jesus Christ
you have revealed your love and your care for all your people;
you are ready to forgive and to save in time of need;
so we proclaim your glory, singing

CH 714

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full,
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

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 our Lord.
Amen.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus, according to Saint Matthew
*All sing: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

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,
(Loudly)
‘Barabbas.’

Pilate said to them, ‘Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ All of them said,
(Loudly)

‘Let him be crucified!’

Then he asked, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more,
(Even more loudly)

‘LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED!’

This is the Passion of the Lord

*All sing: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

A period of silence is kept for reflection

Hymn CH 347

Children of Jerusalem
sang the praise of Jesus’ name:
children, too, of modern days,
join to sing the Saviour’s praise.

*Hark, hark, hark! while children’s voices sing,
hark, hark, hark! while children’s voices sing,
loud hosannas, loud hosannas,
loud hosannas to our king.*

We are taught to love the Lord,
we are taught to read his word,
we are taught the way to heaven:
praise for all to God be given.

*Hark, hark, hark! while children’s voices sing,
hark, hark, hark! while children’s voices sing,
loud hosannas, loud hosannas,
loud hosannas to our king.*

Parents, teachers, old and young,
all unite to swell the song;
higher let our praises rise
till hosannas fill the skies.

THE SERMON The Rector

THE RESPONSE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**When tanks roll by and trumpets play
some people cheer and shout 'Hooray'
but Jesus chose another way
parading on a donkey.**

**No soldier He, but King of Love!
The way he chose was well above
all hawkish ways, and as a Dove
He rode upon a donkey.**

**He had to show that He was brave
and that He only came to save,
Less like a King, more like a slave,
for He rode on a donkey.**

**God offered love, not pomp or show,
so people everywhere would know
the way His kingdom has to grow;
so Jesus rode on a donkey**

**Who cares about the tyrant's pride?
Today Palm Sunday is world wide
and millions stand with us, beside
the King who rode a donkey.**

Hymn CH 236

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

O, the old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see;
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
to pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory for ever I'll share.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

THE PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, on this day you entered into Jerusalem to fulfil your Father's will: give us grace to enter into your will and purpose for our lives.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, on this day you began a journey which would lead to pain and suffering: give grace to those who are on difficult journeys in their own lives.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, on this day you received the welcome and acclamation of the crowds: keep us pure in heart when we receive praise and encouragement.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, on this day you rode in humility on a donkey: Keep us from exalting ourselves, and make us humble in everything we do.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, on this day, the people sang praise with all their strength:

Make our praises joyful, but always from the depth of our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, on this day, the cold jealousy of the Pharisees is exposed, as they want the people to stop:

Forgive us when the praise of others shows up our coldness of heart.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, on this day, you said the very stones might sing your praise:

Give us such reverence for your creation that we may sing our praises in harmony with all you have made.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, on this day you wept for the peace of Jerusalem, your beloved city. We pray for the peace of that holy place, and for peace in our own towns and cities.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, on this day many did not recognise that they were being visited by the Son of God: open our hearts and minds that we may recognise you in all your words, works and ways.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

In offering our prayers this Palm Sunday, we commit ourselves to follow you on the way to the cross, in the knowledge that this way is none other than the way of life and peace.

**Lord Jesus, be our Way
Lord Jesus, be our Truth
Lord Jesus, be our Life
this Holy week and forever. Amen.**

Let us sum up our prayers and praises in the words our Saviour Christ has taught us and say:

Our Father....

Hymn T&P 64

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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.

THE BLESSING

May the Father, who loved the world and gave His only Son, bring you by faith to his eternal life; may Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep you steadfast as you walk with Him on the way of his cross; 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, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. *(All sing)* **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn CH 108

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;

and that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence, and his very self
and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he who smote
in Man, for man, the foe,
the double agony in Man,
for man, should undergo;

and in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

THE DISMISSAL

We tell your story and follow in your footsteps:
Lead us into Holy Week.

We walk towards the city and wait in the garden:
Lead us onto holy ground.

We journey towards death and hope for the resurrection:
Lead us into holy joy.

Walk with Christ this week in the way of His cross and resurrection
Thanks be to God.

Notices

Registered as a charity with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
NIC103246 (Annahilt) and NIC102122 (Magherahamlet)