

# Palm Sunday

## Priest's Tidings

*Before the procession on Palm Sunday, we heard how Saint Matthew recounts Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, riding on a humble donkey and revealing his sublime divinity through an act of profound humility before us. Moved by that divine humility, we acclaim and follow Jesus, carrying our palm branches.*

*The first reading of the Eucharist is part of the third Song of the Servant, through which God inspired Isaiah, some 570 years earlier, while he was in exile in Babylon, to proclaim that God would not only free his people, but would bring salvation to all humanity through Jesus, his Servant.*

*Psalm 21 resonates with the four Songs of the Servant.*

*The psalmist feels persecuted and mistreated by a group of evildoers, yet he entrusts himself to God, and God comes to his help.*

*In the canticle from the Letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul helps us become aware of what we are about to commemorate during Holy Week: the very Son of God humbled himself, accepting even the brutal death of the Cross. After this, the Father exalted him*



above all that exists. In response, we are called to kneel inwardly with deep humility, admiration, and gratitude.

Finally, as a kind of panoramic view of what we will celebrate on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we listen to the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew, from the institution of the Eucharist to the burial of the Crucified Lord. By listening to this long reading with devotion, the Church offers us the opportunity to accompany Jesus interiorly in those intense moments that were decisive in the history of our salvation.

Fr Hugo



## Holy Communion

### COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

We gather outside the main entrance of the church. Please, take a palm branch.

The president greets the people, introduces the service and blesses the palms.

### THE PALM GOSPEL

✠ Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 21  
Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front 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, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, ‘Who is this?’ And the crowds said, ‘This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.’

**Entrance Hymn: 159 All glory, laud and honour to thee, Redeemer, King, Verses 1 to 5**

**Collect:**

Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**Amen**

**First Reading:**

**Reading from the book of Isaiah 50:4-7**

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

**This is the word of the Lord**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm 22**

**R./ 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, for in him he delights. **R/**

For dogs have surrounded me; a band of the wicked besets me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet; I can count every one of my bones.**R/**

They divide my clothing among them, they cast lots for my robe. But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off; my strength, make haste to help me! **R/**

I will tell of your name to my kin, and praise you in the midst of the assembly  
You who fear the Lord, give him praise; all descendants of Jacob, give him glory; revere him, all you descendants of Israel. **R/**

### **Second Reading:**

Reading from the letter of Philippians

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue 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: 161 - Ride on, ride on in majesty, Verses 1,2, 4 &5**

### **Gospel Reading**

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time: Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You have said so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner

called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. 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 shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' And he said, 'Why? What evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!' . So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' And all the people answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. 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 garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, "I am the Son of God." ' And the robbers who were crucified with him

also reviled him in the same way. Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, 'This man is calling Elijah.' And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

All kneel for a period of silence. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And 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, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'

***This is the Gospel of the Lord***

***Praise to you, O Christ***

### **Prayers of Intercession**

**R/ Saviour of the world, our Redeemer, save us and help us.**

Come, Lord. Cleanse your Church from any pride or greed. Cleanse us from our sins and free us to serve you. Strengthen our sense of mission and service. Strengthen our sensitivity towards the needs of others. Strengthen our faith and our vision for your world. **R/**

Come, Lord. Guide the nations into the ways of justice and peace. Guide all leaders and rulers to care for our world. Comfort all who are broken by war and violence. Comfort all who are shattered by the betrayal of loved ones; all who feel scorned and rejected. Comfort all who are imprisoned and wrongly sentenced. **R/**

Come, Lord. As our Saviour and Friend, bless our homes and our loved ones with your love. Guide us in all our dealings and help us to live with you as our Lord. Let your kingly rule be known in us as it is in heaven. **R/**

Come, Lord. You were broken on the cross to make us whole. Be with all who are suffering at this time. Come as light to those who walk in darkness, the despairing and the despondent. Come as joy to all who have lost confidence

and to all who are depressed. Come as hope to all who are ill and fearful of their future. **R/**

Lord Jesus, we remember that you died that we might live. You descended into the depths to raise us to the heights. We ask your blessing upon all our loved ones departed. May they rejoice in the fullness of your kingdom. **R/**

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

**Offertory Hymn: 160 - Make way, make way for Christ the King,**

**Communion Hymn: Just as I am, without one plea,**

**1** Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**2** Just as I am and waiting not  
to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**3** Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
With fears within and foes without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**4** Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**Post Communion Prayer:**

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**

**Recessional 638 - Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,**

## What's happening in our Parish! Sunday– Mass at 9:30 a.m

### **Mission WhatsApp Groups**

We have a series of WhatsApp groups with activities voted for by the congregation. Please have a look and see if you would like to join one: if you are already in one, please think of ways you can proactively help run the activity you have volunteered for.

### **Welcoming at our Eucharist**

Are you able to arrive at 9.15am to help welcome people into our church? If so, it would be lovely to have you join the welcoming team! Please chat to Cynthia so we can add you to the rota

### **Regular Giving**

Many thanks for your generous giving to the ministry of St Matthews' each week. If you have taken home a red envelope please fill out the form and return it so we can plan our future developments of St Matthew's



### **Youth Club**

Our Youth Club runs on Fridays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road, SW9 6BE. All 14-18 year olds are welcome!

## **CONTACT US**

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**Take me home!**  
**29th of March**