



SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
(PALM SUNDAY)
13 April 2025

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The celebrant offers an acknowledgment of country and then continues:

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The celebrant continues with the following words.

This morning begins the Great Week of the Christian Year.

During Lent we have been preparing
for the celebration of the Lord's death and resurrection.

With Christians throughout the world
we come together this week to call to mind,
and to express in word and action,
the centre of the Easter mystery:
our Lord's Passover from death to life.

Christ entered in triumph into the Holy City
to complete his work as Messiah:
to suffer, to die and to rise to a new life.

Today we commit ourselves to walk the way of the cross,
so that, sharing his sufferings,
we may be united with him in his risen life.

The people hold up their palms for the blessing:

Jesus, King of the universe;
Ride on in humble majesty,
Ride on through conflict and debate,
Ride on through sweaty prayer and betrayal of friends,
Ride on through mockery and unjust condemnation,
Ride on through cruel suffering and ignoble death,
Ride on to the empty tomb and your rising in triumph,
Ride on to raise up your Church, a new body for your service,
**Ride on King Jesus, to renew the whole earth in your image;
in compassion come to help us. Amen**

Palm Sunday Gospel

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 fulfill 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 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.” [Matthew 21:1–11]

The service continues as the celebrant says:

Let us praise Jesus our Messiah
as did the crowd who welcomed him to Jerusalem.
Let us proceed in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The congregation will be led by the Dinka drummers and dancers as we sing the African hymn, *Siyahamba (We are marching in the light of God)* TIS 666.

**We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching ... Oo ...
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching ... Oo ...
We are marching in the light of God.

We are living in the light of God,
We are living in the love of God,
We are moving in the power of God.**

South African traditional, tr. Anders Nyberg 1955-

Opening Hymn

All glory, praise and honour [TIS 333]

When the sacred ministers have taken their place in the sanctuary.

*All glory, praise and honour
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

You are the king of Israel
and David's royal son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the king and blessed one.

The company of angels
are praising you on high,
and we and all creation
exultant make reply.

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

To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise:
to you now high exulted
our melody we raise.

Their praises you accepted:
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good take pleasure,
our good and gracious king.

Theodulph of Orleans, d. 821
Tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66 alt.

This prayer will be said by the celebrant.

Merciful God,
as we enter this holy week
and gather at your house of prayer,
turn our hearts again to Jerusalem,
to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
that, united with Christ and all the faithful,
we may one day enter in triumph the city not made with hands,
the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens,
where, with you and the Holy Spirit,
Christ lives in glory for ever. **Amen.**

The celebrant greets the people.

Blessed be the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Confession and Absolution

A minister leads the community in prayers of penitence.

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord God, you created this world, and made us in your own image. Forgive us
when we turn away from you.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.
Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and with one
another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The celebrant says the absolution prayer:

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

The celebrant then says the Prayer of the Day.

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,
where you live and reign with Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4–9a

The Lord GOD has given me a trained tongue, 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 backward. 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 in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:9–18

- 9 Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble:
**my eye wastes away for grief,
my throat also and my inward parts.**
- 10 For my life wears out in sorrow, and my years with sighing:
my strength fails me in my affliction, and my bones are consumed.
- 11 I am become the scorn of all my enemies:
and my neighbours wag their heads in derision.
- 12 I am a thing of horror to my friends:
and those that see me in the street shrink from me.
- 13 I am forgotten like one dead and out of mind:
I have become like a broken vessel.
- 14 For I hear the whispering of many:
and fear is on every side;
- 15 While they plot together against me:
and scheme to take away my life.
- 16 But in you, Lord, have I put my trust:
I have said 'You are my God.'
- 17 All my days are in your hand:
**O deliver me from the power of my enemies
and from my persecutors.**
- 18 Make your face to shine upon your servant:
and save me for your mercy's sake.

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.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

[TIS 706]

**Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.**

Jacques Berthier. Taizé community (1978)

The Passion Gospel

Luke 23:1–43

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please remain seated during the lengthy reading of the Passion, but stand as you are able when we get to the following verses:

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

This is the passion of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The celebrant says

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The celebrant says.

Let us pray for the world, for the City of Ipswich and for the mission of the Church.

A minister will lead the prayers of the faithful, using a form such as the following:

That Christians may hear and share the word of God as true disciples, we pray:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Christian community in this city may find new and deeper faith in the ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter, we pray:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all the ends of the earth may receive the words of the king of peace, we pray:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all leaders, of church and state, prefer humble service to empty power, we pray:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who see the cross starkly revealed in their lives may draw strength from the name above every other name, we pray:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all those who hope to greet Jesus when he comes again may be ready and joyful, we pray:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer for the Ipswich Anglican community

**God of new beginnings,
bless our Ipswich Anglican community
with a fresh vision for the future,
with generous hearts to love one another,
and with courage for the changes we now embrace.
Draw us more deeply into the mystery of Christ,
so that we draw closer to you and to each other.
Make us a blessing to the city of Ipswich
as we walk together
into the future you have prepared for us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The celebrant concludes the prayers with these words.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

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

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

The Summons [melody TIS 679]

Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know, and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind, if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind, and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you, and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free, and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen?
And admit to what I mean in you, and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide, if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside, and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around?
Through my sight and touch and sound in you, and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true, when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you, and never be the same.
In your company I'll go, where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

The Summons [John L. Bell, b. 1949]
© 1987 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland

Prayers at the Table

What do you bring to Christ's table?

We bring bread, made by many people's work from an unjust world where some have plenty and many go hungry.

At this table, all are fed and no one turned away.

Thanks be to God.

What do you bring to Christ's table?

We bring wine, made by many people's work from an unjust world where some have leisure and many struggle to survive.

At this table, all share the cup of pain and celebration and no one is denied.

Thanks be to God.

These gifts shall be for us the body and blood of Christ, our witness against hunger, our cry against injustice, and our hope for a world where God is fully known and every child is fed.

Thanks be to God.

Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer, at your table we present our gifts, symbol of the work you have given us to do; use it, use us, in the service of your world to the glory of your name.

Thanks be to God.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

He offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

The tree of defeat became the tree of victory;
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,
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.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,

and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The celebrant says

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The celebrant breaks the bread.

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:

**So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

Agnus dei

**Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The celebrant says

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Holy things for holy people.
Broken things for broken people.

Communion Anthems

Music by the St Paul's Dinka community

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Notices

Mission Hymn *Lift high the cross* [TIS 351]

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred Name.*

**Come, people, follow where our Captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.**

**All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.**

**From north and south, from east and west they raise
in growing unison their songs of praise.**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
draw all to you, let all the nations see.**

**From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on the cross adore their Saviour King.**

Michael Robert Newbolt, 1874–1956
Based on George William Kitchen, 1827–1912 alt.

The celebrant says a prayer such as the following.

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.
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

(Common Worship)

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

The celebrant says the Blessing.

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
that you may find in him crucified
a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sin forgiven.
And now may the blessing of God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

A minister sends the people of God out on mission to the world God loves.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday (St Thomas' Church, North Ipswich)

6.00pm Liturgy of the Last Supper with feet washing and followed by the Vigil Watch

Good Friday

8.30am St Paul's Church, Ipswich

8.30am St Thomas' Church, North Ipswich

Easter Day • St Paul's Church, Ipswich

6.00am Easter Dawn Service with Holy Fire & Baptism

8.30am Choral Eucharist

5.30pm Taizé Eucharist

Easter Day • St Thomas' Church, North Ipswich

8.30am Easter Eucharist

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