

Compline : Night Prayer

For Palm Sunday

Material in this service is taken from the Plainsong and Mediaeval Music Society, Faith Press Ltd; and from Common Worship© Archbishops' Council of the Church of England.

Reading and psalmody taken from the Anglican Lectionary for the Liturgy of the Palms

The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

Intercession...

For this office, a time of stillness, to bringing to mind those whom we pray for and hold them in God's love..., bringing the needs of the world, the church, and those who have no-one to pray for them... and to offer thanksgiving. Keep these in your mind and heart during the Office, and let the music wrap and lift.

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The Saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus, come
Break my resistance and make me your home.

*Palm Sunday sonnet, by Malcolm Guite, Shared with permission.
'Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year',
Canterbury Press, Norwich, 2012*

Preparation

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night
and a perfect end.
Amen.

Brethren be sober, be vigilant,
because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walketh about,
seeking whom he may devour:
whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

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.

Psalmody

Open to me the gates of *right-eousness**
That I may enter and give *tha-nks* to the Lord.

This is the *gate* of the Lord*
the righteous *shall* enter through it.

I will give thanks to you, for you
have *ans-wered* me*
and have *be-come* my salvation.

The stone which the builders *re-jected**
has become the *chi-ef* cornerstone.

This is the Lord's *do-ing**
and it is *marv-ellous* in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has *made**
we will rejoice and be *glad* in it.

Psalm 118: 19-24

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

Scripture reading

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.

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'.

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: 1-2, 4-5, 8-11

I think that even though he rode on a donkey they did not understand. They could not see that the donkey defined him, that the mute little beast with its gentle eyes was a sign of the utmost importance, however much the man on its back laughed. He was laughing as a small child laughs, a stranger to vanity and wounded pride, laughing because from the back of a donkey he looked at the world and saw its beauty, and maybe for a moment he believed that they saw it too. Maybe he believed that they sang and praised God because their eyes had been opened and they saw that the way to the kingdom was unfolding before them, in the laughter of a king who rode on a donkey.

Taken from Tina Beattie, 'The Last Supper According to Martha and Mary', Continuum, London, 2001, p. 96

Responsory

Into thy hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.
**Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.**

For thou hast redeemed me,
O Lord, thou God of truth
I commend my spirit.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
**Into thy hands, O Lord,
I commend my Spirit**

Keep me as the apple of an eye.
**Hide me under the shadow
of thy wings**

Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Cantic)

**Preserve us O Lord, while waking;
and guard us while sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in peace.**

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant
depart in *peace*:
according to thy word.**

**For mine eyes have seen:
thy sal-vation**

**Which thou hast pre-*par*-ed:
before the face of *all* people.**

**To be a light to lighten the *Gen-tiles*:
and to be the glory of thy *peo-ple* Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to *the* Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now
and ever *shall* be:**

world without *end*.

Amen

**Preserve us O Lord, while waking;
and guard us while sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in peace.**

***Words of prayer, repentance and
forgiveness....***

Lord, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mercy upon us

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,

**which 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 them**

that trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

Amen.

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers;

To be praised and glorified

above all for ever.

Let us bless the Father, the Son
and the Holy Ghost;

Let us praise him

and magnify him for ever.

Blessed art thou, O Lord,

in the firmament of heaven;

to be praised and glorified

above all for ever.

The almighty and most merciful Lord
guard us and give us his blessing.

Amen.

Spoken...

We confess to God Almighty, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Ghost, that we have
sinned in thought, word and deed, through
our own grievous fault. Wherefore we pray
God to have mercy upon us.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive
us all our sins and deliver us from all evil,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and bring us to life everlasting. Through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;
that thy people may rejoice in thee?

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
and grant us thy salvation.

Vouchsafe, O Lord,

to keep us this night without sin

O Lord, have mercy upon us,

have mercy upon us.

O Lord, hear our prayer

and let our cry come unto thee.

Collect

Let us pray

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

Blessing and departure

We will lay us down in peace,
and take our rest;
**For it is thou, Lord, only
that makest us dwell in safety.**

The Lord be with you;
and with thy Spirit.

Let us bless the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

Amen

*Lord, your love is broken open
among cheering crowds and traitor's coins,
deserting friends and hands washed clean,
the mockery of power and the baying mob:
as we follow your way of passion,
give us the faith to bring our weak
and divided hearts to the foot of the cross
and the door of the guarded tomb
that they might be opened,
astonished and healed;
through Jesus Christ,
who carries the weight of the world.
Amen.*

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.**

Amen

Goodnight

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