

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES



LITURGY FOR PALM SUNDAY
(2020 YEAR A)

CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

Welcome to St Michael and All Angels', Abingdon.

You are very welcome here and we hope you will feel part of the parish family meeting to worship God. If you are a visitor today please introduce yourself to one of the clergy, or one of the sidespeople, and stay behind for refreshments.

Our Worship Together: a note of Explanation:

The Mass has always been the central act of Christian worship. It is celebrated in obedience to Jesus' command at the Last Supper: **'Do this in remembrance of me'**.

The Mass (from the Latin word *'missa'*: 'dismissal') reminds us that we leave to return to the world in the Spirit's power living for Christ and sharing His love. The Mass is also called 'the Eucharist' (*thanksgiving*) or 'the Liturgy' (*the work of God's people*).

We praise God through words, music, colour, ritual actions and silence, which allow us to encounter the mystery and beauty of God in Word, in Sacrament, and in one another.

There are four distinct parts in the Mass:

1. The Gathering.

We come as individuals to gather as God's people. We begin with the greeting, we confess our sins, and conclude with the Collect, or Opening Prayer.

2. The Liturgy of the Word

We hear bible readings, the high point of which is the proclamation of the Gospel, followed by a Sermon. We respond by affirming our faith in the Creed and we then bring our prayers to God.

3. The Liturgy of the Sacrament

We begin recognising Christ in one another as we share the Peace. Gifts of Bread and Wine are brought to the Altar and the President (the priest) says the Prayer of Thanksgiving over them. Bells ring out and we look up to adore the Risen Christ in bread and wine as we fulfil his command and the sacrament is given us in Holy Communion.

4. The Dismissal

After Holy Communion we pray the prayer of thanksgiving. The priest prays God's blessing on us, and we go out to live as Christ's body in the world today.

Today we recall the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We gather in the park to process to church as a sign of our intention to follow Jesus in the Way of the Cross. Before our journey begins, Palm Crosses are held high; they are blessed by the priest, as a sign that we too hail Jesus as King. Yet we recall that today marks the beginning of the most solemn week in the church's year as each disciple takes up the call to follow Christ towards his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. On this and every Palm Sunday, at the start of Holy Week, we are mindful of the cost of all that Jesus did, and the costliness and sacrifice of our daily discipleship. It is in staying close to Him in prayerful devotion every day of this week that we then experience fully the joy of new life on Easter Day.

LITURGY FOR PALM SUNDAY

Priest In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

¶ The people hold up their palms as this blessing 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.**

¶ *When the Gospel is announced the deacon says:*

Deacon The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*.

All **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

¶ *One of these Gospels is read.*

¶ *Year A, 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 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.'

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.'

¶ *At the end of the Gospel:*

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

¶ *Year B, Mark 11.1-11*

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom
of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

¶ *At the end of the Gospel:*

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

¶ *Year C, Luke 19.28-40*

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this, "The Lord needs it."' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

'Blessed is the king
 who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
 and glory in the highest heaven!'

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

¶ *At the end of the Gospel:*

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Procession

Priest Let us go forth praising Jesus our Messiah.

¶ *HYMN* "Ride on, ride on in majesty!" [NEH 511]

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry,
Thy humble beast pursues his road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The wingèd squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on his sapphire throne
Awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Henry Milman 1791-1868.

¶ HYMN "All glory, laud and honour" [NEH 509]

*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 men and all things
Created make reply.

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before 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.

Do thou direct our footsteps
Upon our earthly way,
And bring us by thy mercy
To heaven's eternal day.

Within that blessed City
Thy praises may we sing,
And ever raise hosannas
To our most loving King.

*St Theodulph of Orleans, d. 821.
Tr. J.M. Neale, 1818-66*

The Collect

Priest The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

Priest 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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE PASSION

The Readings

¶ *First reading.* Isaiah 50.4-9a

The servant of the LORD said:

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
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.
⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
⁶I 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.

⁷The 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;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

¶ Psalm 31.9-16

R. I trust in you, O Lord, for you are my God.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.
For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing;

my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed. **R.**

I have become a reproach to all my enemies
and even to my neighbours,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
I am forgotten like the dead, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot. **R.**

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.
But as for me, I trusted in you, O Lord.
I have said, 'You are my God.' **R.**

'My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from them who persecute me.
Make your face to shine upon your servant,
And in your loving-kindness save me.' **R.**

¶ *Second reading.* Philippians 2.5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

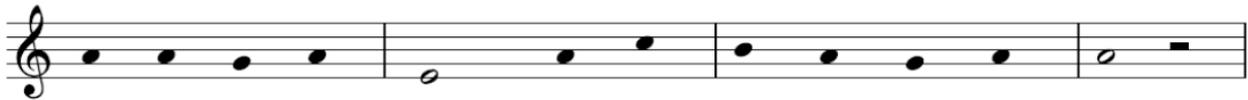
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

¶ Gospel Acclamation



The Creed

¶ The deacon invites us to stand to proclaim the faith of the Church.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

The Intercessions

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied
Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean
spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people,
that through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and
administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice and
mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty to
work openly for justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy**

For those who, weighed down with hardship,
failure,
or sorrow, feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up
the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

¶ *We say together* THE TRISAGION:

All **Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The Peace

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

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

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

¶ *Offertory HYMN "My song is love unknown" [NEH 86]*

My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
O who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne
Salvation to bestow,
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But O my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need,
His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew his way,
And his strong praises sing,
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"

Is all their breath,
And for his death
They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease,
And 'gainst him rise.

They rise, and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet steadfast he
To suffering goes,
That he his foes
From thence might free.

In life no house, no home,
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb,
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was his home;
But mine the tomb
Wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine:
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws
near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden
majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
for ever praising you and saying:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to Thee O Lord most high.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his
friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of
me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of
salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come
again.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [N and] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are
yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught
us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father, who 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 those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

¶ *The priest breaks the consecrated bread and says*

Priest We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
All **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

¶ *The clergy, altar party and chalice assistants receive communion while we sing the AGNUS DEI,*

All **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.**
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

¶ *The priest invites us to receive Holy Communion.*

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

¶ *Communion HYMN "Drop, drop, slow tears" [NEH 82]*

Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beauteous feet,
Which brought from heaven
The news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes,
His mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.
In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;

Nor let his eye
See sin, but through my tears.

Phineas Fletcher, 1582-1650.

¶ *Communion HYMN* "O dearest Lord, thy sacred head" [NEH 89]

O dearest Lord, thy sacred head
With thorns was pierced for me;
O pour thy blessing on my head
That I may think for thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands
With nails were pierced for me;
O shed thy blessing on my hands
That they may work for thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet
With nails were pierced for me;
O pour thy blessing on my feet
That they may follow thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart
With spear was pierced for me;
O pour thy Spirit in my heart
That I may live for thee.

Fr Andrew S.D.C. 1869-1946

Prayer after Communion

¶ *Silence is kept. The priest invites the people, Let us pray. The priest says the post communion prayer. We all then pray together:*

All **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Sending Out

¶ *Announcements and notices for the week are given.*

¶ *The priest says this blessing:*

May the Father,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life.

Amen.

May Christ,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to the Father's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of
the cross. **Amen.**

May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ,
that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the + Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

¶ *The deacon dismisses us with the words,*

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

¶ HYMN "We sing the praise of him who died" [NEH 94].

We sing the praise of him who died,
Of him who died upon the cross;
The sinner's hope let men deride;
For this we count the world but loss.

Inscribed upon the cross we see
In shining letters, 'God is love':
He bears our sins upon the tree:
He brings us mercy from above.

The cross: it takes our guilt away,
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day,
And sweetens every bitter cup.

It makes the coward spirit brave,
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;
It takes its terror from the grave,
And gilds the bed of death with light.

The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angel's theme in heaven above.

Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855.