

# Palm Sunday

*It is wonderful to be able to begin Holy Week together as a sign of the unity for which we long and an act of common Christian witness in this most holy of weeks. We gather on the square to start at 9.15am.*



Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel. Hosanna in the highest!

All: **Hosanna to the Son of David!**

Fr Derek: Dear brothers and sisters, since the beginning of Lent until now we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery, that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that being made by his grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.

*We lift our palm crosses as Fr Simon prays an introductory prayer and Fr Derek blesses our palms for the year ahead.*

Fr Simon: Let us pray. Increase the faith of those who place their hope in you, O God, and graciously hear the prayers of those who call on you, that we, who today hold high these branches to hail Christ in his triumph, may bear fruit for you by good works accomplished in him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Fr Derek: Almighty ever-living God, sanctify + these branches with your blessing, that we, who follow Christ the King in exultation, may reach the eternal Jerusalem through him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

*Gospel (Luke 19.28 - 40)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

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.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Peace*

*Praying for the unity for which we long, we share the peace.*

Fr Simon: Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ’s blood, for he is our peace.

Fr Derek: The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
All: And with your spirit.

*Fr Derek* Dear brothers and sisters, like the crowds  
*& Fr Simon:* who acclaimed Jesus in Jerusalem, let us  
go forth in peace.

*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. *R. All glory, laud...*

The company of angels  
are praising thee on high;  
and mortals joined with all things  
created, make reply. *R.*

The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before thee went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before thee we present. *R.*

To thee before thy passion  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. *R.*

Thou didst accept their praises,  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest,  
thou good and gracious King! *R.*

*Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821)*  
*trans. J. M. Neale (1818-1866)*