

**The Sunday of the Passion
With the Liturgy of the Palms
April 5th, 2020**



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray. Assist us mercifully with your help, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you give us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

READINGS

Zechariah 9:9-10
Psalm 118: 19-26
Philippians 2:3-11
Matthew 21:1-11

REFLECTIONS

Reflection on Palm Sunday

Early on in my ministry I began the radical practice of ignoring the old lectionary idea of combining Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. The combination of these two very different events into one Sunday harkened back to the time before our modern Church rediscovered the rich worship traditions of the early Church. I chose instead to focus on Palm Sunday and stress to folks that Palm Sunday was the beginning of a rich and meaningful journey with Jesus through the events of that last week of his life. The procession into Jerusalem was only the beginning. On Maundy Thursday (maundy comes from an Anglo French word *mandatum* which means commandment) Jesus gives his disciples the great commandment to love one another. John 13.34. He acts out servant ministry in washing their feet at a Eucharistic Meal together. Then on Good Friday Jesus arrest, trial and execution are remembered. The Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday is just that, an evening Vigil where symbolically the new fire of life and resurrection breaks through the literal darkness of death. This was the time for baptisms in the early Church as new disciples symbolically died and rose again with Christ. Finally, we came to Easter Morning that begin 50 days of celebration ending with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

So, with others in the seventies and eighties, when the liturgies of the 4th Century were made available to us, I chose to ask folks to enjoy Palm Sunday and then enter fully into the three holy days beginning on Thursday when we would walk through the central events that define us as Christians. This is why today you won't find the Passion Sunday readings and reflections. We will try this year to bring you resources for this week so that at home you can join with others from our parish, and people throughout the world, in commemorating Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and The Great Vigil of Easter.

This year many of us are experiencing something we have never faced before, walking in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, and we are not doing it as individuals but as communities, nations and the world. Never was there a more meaningful time to remember Jesus' story. Perhaps as we walk with Him the *"path that led to self-giving, suffering, and death"* we will realize at a deep experiential level, deep in our hearts and spirits, that Christ lives in us as we live in Him. I invite you therefore to join with millions of us who will this week Walk with Christ, from, *"the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection, by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross may we share his resurrection and new life."* Book of Alternative Services p.297 Palm Sunday.

Written by Archdeacon Rick Jones

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please pray for Our Bishop Dr. Todd Townshend, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda, our Primate, Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop and Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia Rev. Kendall Reimer-Johnston and the **Brant Regional Ministry**, and all lay and clergy leaders.*

We ask your prayers for parishioners and friends in need of God's healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Andrea P., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Kathleen C-S., Bill Mc., Dwayne M, and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M. Jerry M., Diane H., Delores B., Mark A and Hazel A. and baby Maeve A. and anyone known to you.

Remember our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes: June, Shirley, Iris, Everett, Julie, David, John, Anna, and Ron

Prayer for hospital staff and researchers:

Gracious God give skill sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.

Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

Mary Field has prepared the following

As I prepared prayers for Palm Sunday the importance and comfort that we get from our faith seemed to guide my thoughts. The commitment of our Saviour Jesus to achieve his mission, on earth, as assigned to Him by Our Heavenly Father, let us pray that we will live up to His gift to us. You sent him on a mission of love, Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you". The Apostle Paul taught that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" ([Hebrews 11:1](#)). Having faith in Jesus Christ means relying completely on Him—trusting in His infinite power, wisdom, and love. It includes believing His teachings. It means believing that even though you do not understand all things, He does.

❖ Let us take a moment to quietly reflect on our faith, breathe deeply knowing we are surrounded by all things of His making.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look to Your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who lead with wisdom as we face an ever-changing world. We pray for guidance and support for the Parish of Long Point Bay, the Diocese of Huron, and all churches here and around the world, may they collectively pray for your guidance and receive your wisdom to get them through difficult time. *This in Jesus name we pray*

Heavenly Father we pray for continued blessings of courage, wisdom and strength for our long serving Queen Elizabeth and all world leaders in this difficult time. Lord be with individuals making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world, guide them with empathy as they seek innovative ways of setting policies for our protection in this new crisis. Heavenly Father in your own way you have brought the world together against a common foe. This in Jesus name we pray

Almighty God guide our thoughts as we take a moment to open our hearts and pray for our personal concerns. As we face tough choices and hard situations, help us remember that we are Your children and Your representatives to the world around us. Help us live today in a way that brings honour to Your Holy Name. May we gratefully travel the path you have assigned us. Opening our hearts to being guided by your love & wisdom. Thank you for all the blessings you have given us, for all answered prayers and for miracles you have performed for each of us. - This in Jesus name we pray

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge our dependence upon you. This virus has reminded us of our frailty. We have altered too much of the earth with our innovation and creative acts. We are reminded how frail and powerless we really are, may we never forget the lesson.

During your ministry on earth you healed and cared for people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental and spiritual ailments. As we adjust to this isolated, fearful and unusual way of living in the free world there are those among us who tirelessly take on the enemy. We pray passionately for the courageous medical doctors, nurses, health care professionals, all front-line workers and those who are deemed essential services who are putting their lives on the line. May You give them strength and physical immunity during this time. We pray for the scientists, disease experts, and epidemiologists who are working on vaccines and testing mechanisms. Lord, we thank you for gifting them with keen knowledge and great understanding. We pray for their endurance, for breakthroughs and for resources. Finally, Lord take away the fear, anxiety and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment and under quarantine, bless them with recovery. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Lord, you are the 'Great Healer', so we pray for healing for the victims of COVID-19. We pray for COVID-19 to be destroyed. In Jesus name we pray

Lord, while our attention is focused on a world pandemic, we do not want to forget all those with other illnesses. Hear our prayer for them, they too need to feel the strength and power of your healing touch upon their lives, we do not want them to suffer with loneliness and fear, we pray for their proper care, give them the gift of healing and strength. In Jesus name we pray

Heavenly Father hear our prayer for the poor, the hungry, and those hurting in any way. Those living through civil unrest, cruelty of all sorts, homelessness and weather-related storms. We pray a way will be found for their safety, nourishment and necessities for life. In Jesus name we pray.

Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love family and friends whom we have placed in your hands. Grant eternal joy and peace to our beloved and holy dead. In Jesus name we pray.

Following prayer by *Anglican Bishop Eric Menees*

Almighty and everliving God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others Amen

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory, may we, walking in the way of the cross, find it is for us the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. In the absence of a bishop or priest, the preceding service may be **Amen**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This week is the Holiest Week of the Christian Church.

You will notice that we will walk this week from the Palms to the Cross, to the Resurrection. If you were looking for Passion Sunday, the full readings and prayers will be on Good Friday. We will journey together. Many Blessings, Rick+

Please watch for special devotions for Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

Please click on the link to watch AD Rick's video for this week

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFZwTF1nGwo&feature=youtu.be>

At this extraordinary time if you are experiencing difficulties with the necessities of life please contact Archdeacon Rick or Anne at the addresses and telephones below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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