

Palm Sunday (28th March, 2021)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: Friends in Christ,
For the five weeks of Lent
we have been preparing
for the celebration of our Lord's suffering and death.
Today, together with the whole church,
we begin this Holy Week by welcoming our Messiah.

Scripture Reading – *Mark 11:1-11*

M: The Lord be with you;

All: **And also with you.**

M: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

¹As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ²saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" ⁴They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹¹Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

1. 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.
2. All glory, laud, and honour
To Thee, Redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
The company of angels
Are praising Thee on high,
And mortals joined with all things
Created make reply.
3. 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.
4. All glory, laud, and honour
To Thee, Redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
To Thee before Thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted
Our melody we raise.
5. All glory, laud, and honour
To Thee, Redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou Didst accept their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,

**Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.**

**All glory, laud, and honour
To Thee, Redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.**

*Music: M. Teschner 1584-1635 (1615);
Words: Gloria, laus et honour Theodulph of Orleans (?-
c. 821)
Tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, alt.
In the public domain*

M: The Lord be with you;

All: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray:

Lord, as we remember how Christ the King
entered Jerusalem to the sound of joyful shouts, increase our faith
and listen to our prayers, so that we may praise you every day,
by living always in him.
For he lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

M: The hour has come

All: **for the Son of Man to be glorified.**

M: In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

M: Friends in Christ;

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.
Therefore let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him in the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us;

**C: We confess to you, almighty God,
before the whole company of heaven, and to each other,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by our own fault.
Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, forgive us all our sins,
and bring us to eternal life.
Amen.**

M: As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
Lord have mercy,

All: Lord have mercy,

M: his mercy endures for ever.
Christ have mercy,

All: Christ have mercy.

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
Lord have mercy,

All: Lord have mercy.

M: The Lord be with you,

All: And also with you.

M: Let us pray for humility:

**All: Loving Father of all,
your only Son came as a servant
and was obedient all the way to his death on the cross.
Make us humble like Christ,
and bring us to be with him in his glory.
For he lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

First Reading – Isaiah 50:4-9a

The obedience of the Lord's servant

⁴The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. ⁵The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. ⁶I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ⁷Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! ⁹It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading – Philippians 2:5-11

Christ - obedient servant and exalted Lord

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God**

M: Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

All: **Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.**

Gospel Reading – Mark 15:1-47

(Spoken) **Glory to you, O Lord,**

Jesus' suffering and death

¹Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. ²“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. ³The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.” ⁵But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. ⁶Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. ⁹“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. ¹²“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. ¹³“Crucify him!” they shouted. ¹⁴“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. ¹⁶The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” ¹⁹Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means

“the place of the skull”).²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him.²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews.

²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left.^[28] ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days,³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!”³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself!³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome.

⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.⁴² It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached,⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body.

⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died.⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: (Spoken) Praise to you, O Christ

Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for suffering and dying for us.
Remember us and save us.

Amen.

Gospel Song – When his time was over *TIS 357*

1. When his time was over,
the palms lay where they fell;
as they ate together,
he told his friends farewell.
Jesus, though you cried out
for some other end,
love could only choose a cross
when our life began again.
2. Secretly they planned it,
with money changing hands;
in the quiet garden
a kiss betrayed their man.
Priests and elders tried him,
soldiers crowned him king.
We were in the crowd that day
when our life began again.
3. Women wept to see him;
he said: 'Don't weep for me'.
Many laughed, and mocked him –
'Forgive them, they don't see'.
Jesus, please forgive me,
you know what I am;
I was one who nailed your hands
when our life began again.
4. There was one who asked you:
'Remember me this day'.
Jesus, when I'm dying,
remember me that way.
When my life is over,

**be with me, my friend,
like the thief upon the cross,
when our life began again.**

*Music & Words: © Robin Mann 1949- (1980)
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Sermon

All: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again
from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty,
from thence he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Offering Hymn – Prepare the royal highway

LH 737

- 1. Prepare the royal highway,
the King of kings is near;
let every hill and valley
a level road appear.**

**Then greet the king of glory
foretold in sacred story:**

***Hosanna to the Lord,
for He fulfills God's Word!***

- 2. God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him;
spread garments; shout and sing.
God's promise will not fail you;
no more shall doubt assail you:**

***Hosanna to the Lord,
for He fulfills God's Word!***

- 3. Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king;
your king, yet every nation
its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him;
all nations now adore him:**

***Hosanna to the Lord,
for He fulfills God's Word!***

- 4. His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding:**

***Hosanna to the Lord,
for He fulfills God's Word!***

<p><i>Music: Swedish folk tune 17th Century; Words: Frans Mikael Franzen 1772-1847 In the public domain</i></p>
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M: Let us pray:

Thank you, loving Father,
that your Son was obedient all the way to the cross, and suffered
and died for us.
Make us humble and self-giving,
serving others as he served us.

All: **Amen.**

Prayer of the church

M: Lord, teach us to pray:

All: **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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

M: May Christ our crucified Saviour draw you to himself, so that you may find in him the assurance of sins forgiven and the gift of eternal life;

Go in peace and have the same humble attitude as our Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

Closing Hymn – The Day Thou gavest, Lord, now is Ended

LHS 549

- 1. The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.**
- 2. We thank Thee that thy Church unsleeping
While earth rolls onward into light,**

**Through all the world her watch is keeping
And rests not now by day or night.**

- 3. As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.**
- 4. The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.**
- 5. So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.**

C.C. Scholefield 1839-1904 (1874)
John Ellerton (1826-1893)