

The Benefice of St.Mary, Alderley & St.Catherine, Birtles  
**The Family Service on Palm Sunday**



**Welcome to worship**

**The minister:** Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**We sing a hymn**

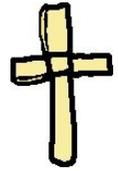
**The minister:**

Dear brothers and sisters 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 our 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 palms while this prayer is said by the minister**

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.

**All Amen.**



## **The Palm Gospel**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

*All **Glory to you, O Lord.***

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**We sing a hymn**

**The minister:** Come, let us return to the Lord and say

**All: Lord our God,**

**in our sin we have avoided your call.**

**Our love for you is like a morning cloud,**

**like the dew that goes away early.**

**Have mercy on us;**

**deliver us from judgement;**

**bind up our wounds and revive us;**

**in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The minister:**

The Lord enrich you with his grace,

and nourish you with his blessing;

the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;

the Lord accept your prayers,

and absolve you from your offences,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

**All Amen.**



### **The Collect for today**

**The minister:** Heavenly Father,  
who anointed your Son Jesus Christ  
with the Holy Spirit and with power  
to bring to the world the blessings of your kingdom:  
anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in his suffering and his victory  
may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;  
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.**

*Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.*

*At the end of each the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*When the Passion Gospel is announced the reader says*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

*At the end*

This is the Passion of the Lord.

*No response is made.*

### **The Address**

**We sing a hymn, during which your offering is received**



## The Apostles Creed

**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 Ghost,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried:  
He descended into hell;  
On the third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
The holy Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body,  
And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession

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

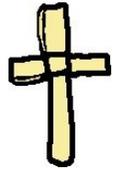
*All Lord, have mercy.*

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.*

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



Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 Blessing**

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

*All 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 his cross.

*All Amen.*

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

*All Amen.*

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

*All Amen.*

**We sing a hymn**

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**It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual (as opposed to a weekly) memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ.** This *Pascha* (a word derived indirectly from *pesach*, Hebrew 'Passover') was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification.

**Over time, the *Pascha* developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter.** Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading or singing of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated.

**Maundy Thursday contains a rich complex of themes:** humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

**After keeping vigil ('Could you not watch with me one hour?') Thursday passes into Good Friday.** The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day, which is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the being dead of the Son of God, other than silence and desolation. But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.

**This solemn season preserves some of the oldest texts still in current use, and rehearses the deepest and most fundamental Christian memories.** At the same time, the services and ceremonies of Holy Week have in the course of Christian history been the occasion of, or have actively encouraged, hostility towards the Jews. The '*Ioudaioi*' of St John's Gospel have all too easily been identified with 'the Jews' as a whole, or more specifically those Jews who were neighbours of a Christian church. This places a double responsibility on those who lead the keeping of Holy Week today: to be faithful to the act of collective memory, but also to be sensitive to the ways in which an unreflecting use of traditional texts can perpetuate a strain of Christian anti-Semitism.