PROCESSION OF PALMS
Palm Sunday

Sunday 28 March 2021
9.30am Oxford Time
Welcome to this service of Holy Communion, or the Eucharist, which is at the heart of our worshipping life. Here we encounter God in his Word, in the sacrament of bread and wine, and in our fellowship with one another.

Today’s liturgy marks the beginning of Holy Week, as we enter into the drama of Christ’s cross and passion which will lead us to his death on Good Friday and his raising from the dead on Easter Day. Our first service is held in Tom Quad with the Liturgy of the Palms, commemorating Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, when the crowds greeted him with loud Hosannas.

Currently, regulations do not permit the Choir to lead services with a congregation. Later this morning, at 11am, the Choir will sing the Eucharist of Palm Sunday, unfolding the narrative of the first Holy Week. Do join us for this service on Youtube.

You are warmly invited to join us, whether at Christ Church or in your homes, as we walk with Jesus the way of Holy Week. May God bless you as we worship together.

Please pay attention to Covid risk mitigation measures and please do ask the vergers if you are unsure. There is much that is different from our “normal” practice. The chalice will not be offered to the congregation; the sacrament of Holy Communion is received fully in the bread alone. We will all maintain social distancing at all times, except for the moment of giving the Communion bread. Please make sure you wash or sanitise your hands when asked to do so, and please don’t touch or hug anyone who isn’t part of your household, especially at the Peace.

For full details of our Holy Week observances, please see https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/HolyWeek2021. In order to keep everyone safe, tickets must be booked for many of our in-building services. If you would like us to keep in touch with you, please make sure we have your contact details by contacting the office cathedraloffice@chch.ox.ac.uk/01865 286 869.
The Clergy and Congregation gather in Tom Quad. This is a short service and we will remain outdoors throughout.

The Gathering

President Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
All and also with you.

President 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 our Saviour, to suffer, to die and to rise again. Let us greet him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

Acclamation

Deacon Hosanna to the Son of David.
All Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Deacon Behold your king comes to you, O Zion, meek and lowly, sitting upon a donkey.
All Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Deacon Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.
All Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
The Blessing of the Palms

The People hold up their palm crosses to be blessed.

President  God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem
as Messiah to suffer and to die,
bless these palms,
that they may 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,
now and for ever.

All  Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon  God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Deacon  For failing to recognise Christ
in his call on us and in those around us,
Lord, have mercy.

All  Lord, have mercy.

Deacon  For being ashamed to be known
as Christ’s disciples,
Christ, have mercy.

All  Christ, have mercy.

Deacon  For wilfully refusing
to walk in Christ’s ways,
Lord, have mercy.

All  Lord, have mercy.
Absolution

President Almighty God, 
who forgives all who truly repent, 
have mercy upon you, 
pardon and deliver you from all your sins, 
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, 
and keep you in life eternal; 
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President Almighty God, 
whose most dear Son went not up to joy 
but first he suffered pain, 
and entered not into glory before he was crucified: 
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, 
may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 
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.

All Amen.
First Reading
Isaiah 50:4–9a (NRSV)

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

The 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.
The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
I 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.
The 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;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Reader     This is the word of the Lord.
All        Thanks be to God.
The Palm Gospel
Mark 11: 1–11 (NRSV)

Deacon  Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
All  Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

Deacon  This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All  Praise to you, O Christ.
Prayers of Intercession

President  Let us pray to the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to give us life.

Minister  For the Church, Christ’s broken body in the world, for its leaders and all with whom we worship, for those who celebrate Holy Week in company and those who pray alone:

Lord, hear us.

All  Lord, graciously hear us.

For the world which Christ came to save in all its many needs; for its leaders and all whose lives are precariously balanced for places where there is pain.

Lord, hear us.

All  Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who, like Christ, feel abandoned or afraid for all who walk paths of suffering and all who put themselves at risk for the sake of others.

Lord, hear us.

All  Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who, like Christ, are in pain of body or mind for those we know and love all for whom we worry and all for whom we care.

Lord, hear us.

All  Lord, graciously hear us.

President  Lord of the Church:

All  hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever.

Amen.
The Peace

President  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.

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

Preparation of the Table

President  Jesus, true vine and bread of life, ever giving yourself that the world might live, let us share your death and passion: make us perfect in your love.
All       Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

President  The Lord be with you
All       and also with you.

President  Lift up your hearts.
All       We lift them to the Lord.

President  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All       It is right to give thanks and praise.

President  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 power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

President  

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.

Deacon  Great is the mystery of faith.
All  Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

President 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.

Lord of all life, help us to work together until 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Frideswide, Birinus, 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.

All  Amen.
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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 for ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Giving of Communion

The President says the invitation to Communion.

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you.
Eat in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.
If you would like to receive Communion, please wait in your place until you are invited by a verger to move towards the Communion station. Please maintain two metres distance from others, and please follow the instructions of the vergers at all times.

We will receive Communion in one kind only. The President will receive at the altar, consuming the whole of the priest’s host which has been uncovered; then sanitise his hands before picking up the ciborium. He will pick up a host and place it in your hands without touching you. If you would like a blessing, keep your head bowed; the President will take a step back and pray a short blessing without touching you.

Prayer after Communion

President   Let us pray.

Please kneel if you are able. A time of silent prayer may be kept.

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 Dismissal

Blessing

President  
Christ crucified draw you to himself,  
to find in him a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sins forgiven;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always  

All  
Amen.

Deacon  
Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.  

All  
In the name of Christ.  Amen.
Holy Week Services

**Palm Sunday, 28 March**
6pm Choral Evensong with Sermon, Online Only

**Monday of Holy Week, 29 March**
6pm Choral Evensong with Sermon, Online Only
7.30pm Passiontide Organ Meditation, Online Only

**Tuesday of Holy Week, 30 March**
6pm Said Evening Prayer with Sermon, Online Only
7.30pm A Sequence of Music for Holy Week, Online Only

**Wednesday of Holy Week, 31 March**
1pm BCP Holy Communion
6pm Choral Evensong with Sermon, Online Only
7.30pm Passiontide Organ Meditation, Online Only

**Maundy Thursday, 1 April**
11am Chrism Mass, Invitation only, Available Online
6pm Choral Eucharist, Online Only
7.30pm Said Eucharist, Ticketed
8.30pm–Midnight Watch of the Passion, Ticketed

**Good Friday, 2 April**
10am Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday, Online Only
3pm Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday, Ticketed
6pm Choral Meditation with Sermon, Online Only

**Holy Saturday, 3 April**
2pm Ecumenical Service with Wesley Memorial Church, Online Only
8pm Easter Vigil, Ticketed

*All services begin at Oxford Time*

Please see chch.ox.ac.uk/HolyWeek2021 for further details.
Easter Day Services

8am BCP Holy Communion
all welcome, no ticket required

10am Easter Eucharist
admittance by ticket only
President and Preacher: The Bishop of Oxford
The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft

12pm Choral Eucharist, Online Only

3pm Easter Eucharist
admittance by ticket only

6pm Choral Evensong, Online Only