

**A Service of the Word for Palm Sunday – April 5, 2020**  
**Adapted from *Common Worship*, Church of England**



**OPENING MUSIC: Ride On, Ride On in Majesty**

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark! all the tribes "Hosanna" cry;  
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The angel-squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own anointed Son.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

Bishop: +In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: **and also with you.**

Bishop: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Keep a time of silence*

Bishop: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

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### OPENING INTRODUCTION AND COLLECT

Bishop: 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, though scattered we gather, united by the Holy Spirit to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church through the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer and 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.

**All: Amen.**

Bishop: Let us pray.....

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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.**

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Prophet Zechariah chapter 9 verses 9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.  
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

**All: Thanks be to God**

*A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.*

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### **THE GOSPEL OF THE PALMS: Matthew 21.1-11**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Matthew.

**All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

One: The Gospel of Christ

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **THE HOMILY: Bishop Susan Bell**

*Music is played during a time of reflection*

### **INTERCESSIONS**

One: Let us pray....

Holy God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we make our prayer to you, saying,

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

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One: Loving God, whose peace passes all our understanding; as we face the present pandemic, and experience anxiety and fear, may we hear your voice, bringing calm to the storms of our time. Strengthen those who work to limit the spread of infection, and those who seek to care for the sick, and keep us mindful of the most vulnerable. May we shape our living to protect one another, and may our changing habits, practices and sacrifices, be for the greater love of our community and all your people.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Victorious God, whose Son Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and was hailed by the crowds as the messiah, give to your whole church courage to proclaim the Gospel and to follow in the way of Jesus in love, hope, obedience and sacrifice.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Limitless God, we pray for those for whom this time of physical distancing creates particular challenges: for the addicted, for those living with disabilities who do not have access to their usual supports, for those living with depression and anxiety, for those who do not have systems of care and for whom loneliness weighs heavily upon the soul. Grant them your support, an awareness of your presence and strength.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Divine physician, we pray for those who are sick, especially those being admitted to our hospitals or quarantined at home with COVID-19. Bring them relief and healing, ease their fears and strengthen and protect those who seek to care for them.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Compassionate one, we pray for students, and especially those who have special needs and learning challenges and for educational assistants who seek to support them in new ways. For parents who try to support learning from home and teachers finding creative ways to communicate. We pray for children who miss their friends and most especially those children for whom home is not a happy or safe place.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: God of Justice, we continue to pray for those who show us the way of justice and peace in our world. For the prophets who champion the needs of the most vulnerable, for those who seek to protect your creation and the species which are endangered, for those who speak truth to power. That as we follow Christ we may turn words to action and see your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

**The Anglican Diocese of Niagara  
Called to Life – Compelled to Love**

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One: God, you know the secrets of our hearts and minds and the needs we carry with us today. And so in this time of silence we lift to you the needs of those upon our hearts, and our own anxieties, trusting in your unfailing mercy and love....

*A time of silence is kept.*

Lord in your mercy,  
**All: hear our prayer.**

Bishop: Trusting in the compassion of God,  
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.**

*Closing remarks and announcements.*

### THE BLESSING

#### CLOSING HYMN: All Glory, Laud and Honour

*Refrain* All glory, laud, and honor  
to thee, Redeemer, King!  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Israel,  
thou David's royal Son,  
who in the Lord's Name comest,  
the King and blessed one. [Refrain]

2 The company of angels  
are praising thee on high;  
and we with all creation  
in chorus make reply. [Refrain]

3 The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before thee went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before thee we present. [Refrain]

4 To thee before thy Passion  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. [Refrain]

5 Thou didst accept their praises;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest,  
thou good and gracious King. [Refrain]