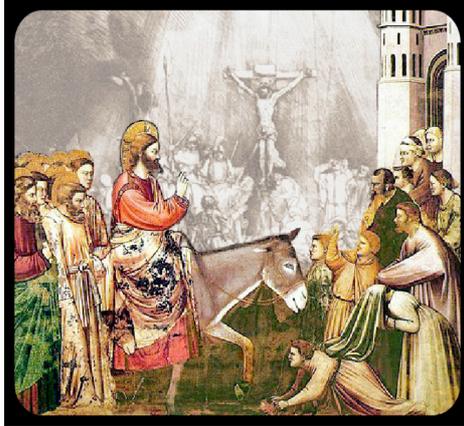


## PALM SUNDAY C



Painting by Giotto w/ Crucifixion added in

### **PALM SUNDAY, THE PROCESSION Luke 19:28-40**

*The whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen.*

Multitudes proclaimed your mighty deeds:

“Blessed is the king who comes  
in the name of the Lord,”  
they called  
out!

As for us,

let us throw down our coats for you,  
shout your name to all who hear.  
Hosanna!, Jesus of Nazareth,  
God, walking along with us,  
and leading us to grace,  
our beloved hero,  
loving us all the  
way to the  
cross!

Come into our  
Hearts!

Lest the stones cry out!

### **THE GOSPEL Luke 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49**

***They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying,  
“Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?”***

*This  
is my body,  
which will be given for you.*

He did not shield his face from pounding and spitting,  
nor cry out when they covered his eyes.

They jeered, “who struck you?”

But instead he quickly  
emptied himself  
for he so loved  
his Abba  
and the world.

Christ, teach us to empty  
everything  
but  
you.

***THE FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-7***

***He opens my ear that I may hear.***

Lord, please,

open our eyes. morning after morning,  
that we may see you  
in all things.

Let us too hear the cry of the poor:

Ukraine, the children starving,  
immigrants, the unhoused,  
the cry of the planet.

Let us speak on  
their behalf.

Open  
our hearts  
that we may love you,

holding nothing back, nothing at all.

## THE SECOND READING Philippians 2:6-11

*He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.*

Christ,  
you emptied yourself.

No self-concern,  
no turning  
back.

Teach us to love this way.  
Filled with your Spirit,  
let us surrender  
into your

love. *Anne Osdtieck*



'Into your hands I commit my spirit'

**Reflection:** This Sunday, we begin the holiest week of the Church's liturgical year. We read two passages from the **Gospels**, relating how the joyful entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, accompanied by crowds who acclaim him as Saviour and King, gave way to his betrayal and death, alone and abandoned by all. The other readings help us understand the meaning of these events.

The **First Reading** is one of the passages about the suffering servant of God from Isaiah. As Christians, we read this as showing how Jesus lived out his patient trust in God. It can help and enable us to bear our trials and difficulties.

In the **Psalm** we hear familiar echoes of the crucifixion narratives. You may like to find the whole of the psalm in your bible or online; its words of hope in the midst of great suffering, and profound trust in God, are the prayer of Jesus from the cross.

St Paul's text is a hymn to Jesus's life and death (**Second Reading**). Christ's humility in becoming a human being was even more profound when he accepted to die a shameful death on a cross. But, as Paul writes, God raised him from death and gave him the highest name of all, so that all beings should bend the knee to Jesus and 'acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.'

This week we accompany Jesus; we pray for the grace of an awareness of our sinfulness, and for sorrow and true contrition in the face of the sufferings of Jesus. We also continue to pray for peace across the world, especially in Ukraine and eastern Europe.



### Opening Prayer

Almighty, ever-living God,  
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. *(Reflection from St. Bueno's Outreach Programme to the Diocese of Wrexham)*

