

Drouin Congregation : April 5th 2020
Palm Sunday.

For this service you will need a small branch or some other greenery, and bread and wine.

I suggest you prepare the elements of bread and wine before you begin this service. Please remember this is a service of **Holy Communion** and so should be approached in a respectful manner.

Opening sentences.

Christian Friends, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection. Today we begin our celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. We remember how Christ entered the city of Jerusalem to complete his work of suffering, death, and resurrection. Let us travel with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

Hymn TiS 346 Prepare the royal highway.

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:
O blest is he that came / in God the Father's name !

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
O blest is he that came / in God the Father's name !

Then fling the gates wide open/ to greet the promised king;
your king, yet every nation / its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him; / all voices thus adore him
O blest is he that came / in God the Father's name !

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;
O blest is he that came / in God the Father's name !

*Frans Mikael Franzen
9 Feb 1772 – 14 Aug 1847 Swedish-Finnish poet and clergyman.
Served as Bishop of the Diocese of Härnösand.*

The liturgy of the palm branch. *[you may not have a palm branch so choose from your garden an alternative greener. You might also like to throw some coloured cloths around you communion table.]*

God our Saviour,
your Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;
let these palms [emblems] be for us signs of his victory
and grant that we who bear them in his name / may honour him as our King,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;
In the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

Scripture:

Psalm 118:1, 19-29 Give thanks to the Lord.

Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus rides a donkey into Jerusalem

Hymn TiS 348 Ride on, ride on in majesty.

[Say or sing this hymn slowly and let its words have their full weight]

Ride on, ride on in majesty; / hark all the tribes hosanna cry !
O Saviour, meek, pursue your road / with palms and scattered garments ;

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

Ride on, ride on in majesty; the wing-ed squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes / to see the approaching sacrifice.

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

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

*Henry Hart Milman – Notable Latin scholar.
One time Canon of Westminster &, later, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral.*

Not so much a sermon !!!

but part of a reflection of one of the owners of the donkey ridden by Jesus. This is from a book called Worship through the seasons by Nick Fawcett.

Hello, I thought, what's going on here? Suddenly some fellows I'd never seen before appeared from nowhere and, cool as you like, started to make off with our donkey.....So I asked them straight 'What's your game?' And that's when they spoke those special words 'The Lord needs it'.

Not the fullest of explanations but it was all I needed for straightway it all came flooding back – that day when Jesus came by and for a few wonderful moments I met him face to face.....

Quite simply, he changed my life, and though I'm not one to shout it from the rooftops I wanted to respond nonetheless, , to show Jesus how much he meant to me, how much I valued what he'd done.

This was it, the chance I'd been waiting for, my opportunity to give something back at last. Hardly earth-shattering stuff...the loan of a donkey – but that didn't matter, the fact was that Jesus had need of me – it was all I needed to know.

He arrived soon after, and I followed him into Jerusalem, where the crowds were waiting to greet him, wild with excitement, shouting their praises, throwing down their cloaks in welcome = and small though it had been, I knew I'd done my bit to make that great day possible.

Never forget that, whoever you are, however little you think you have to offer, for some day, some time, your moment will come - a day when your contribution to his kingdom will be requested in those lovely words: 'The Lord needs it'.

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Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty'
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, /suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried, / he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; / he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Offering [I suggested last week you could place your offering in a small bowl to be set aside and brought to church when normal services resume. Mavis and I placed our EFTPOS card in our bowl].

Dedication.

Blessed are you, Lord God our Father;
through your goodness these are the gifts to share.
Accept and use this offering for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom. Amen

The Story of the Last Supper

Listen to the words St. Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth.
I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you
That the Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed,
took bread, and, when he had given thanks, he broke it and said
'This is my body which is for you, do this in remembrance of me'.
In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying
'This cup is the new covenant in by blood:
do this as often as you drink it, for the remembrance of me'
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Cor. 11:23-26

Prayers of Thanksgiving.

The Lord is with **me/us**.
I/we lift up **my/our** heart to the Lord
I/we give thanks and praise to God.

Lord God, Strong and gentle, Holy and loving,
in humility Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem while crowds shouted 'Hosanna';
when the cries turned to 'Crucify'
he was taken outside the city
and lifted up [on the Cross] as the King of glory.

And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place;
joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

**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.**

The Lord's Prayer.

Our Father in heaven, / hallowed by 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.
Save us from the time of trial / and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours / now and for ever. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread. *[Care should be taken when preparing and placing the elements]*

The bread I/we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup I/we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ
The gifts of God for me/us and for all the people of God.

I/we eat this bread and drink this wine in faith and with thanksgiving.

Prayer after communion.

God of grace, you renew **me/us** at your table with the bread of life.
May this food strengthen **me/us** in love and help **me/us** to serve you in other people.
I/We ask this in the name and for the sake of Christ Jesus your much-loved Son –
my/our Lord, Redeemer & Saviour

Pastoral Prayers.

I/we remember

- the other members of the Drouin congregation & all other people in our state and country as well as in other nations worshipping in similar unfamiliar ways;
- people locked in isolation under trying circumstances;
- couples facing disappointment with wedding celebrations deferred;
- families experiencing the devastation of not being able to attend funerals of family;
- homeless people without home or clothing or food;
- those who cannot understand or interpret confusing political or medical messages.

[please add to these suggestions as they occur to you].

The Sign of Peace. [If there is more than one person in your home, then share the 'Peace'; if there is only one of you perhaps you could make the sign of the cross on your forehead or chest.

I will go and stand on the steps of the church today- Sunday - and make the sign of the cross on the members of the scattered congregation. Peter.

Blessings:

The guarding of the God of life be on you,
the guarding of the loving Christ be on you,
the guarding of the Holy Spirit be on you
every day of your life. Amen

Rev. Peter Robson

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