



# Welcome to St Alban's

## Palm Sunday

---



Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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 palms are blessed*

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. **Amen.**

THE PALM GOSPEL

John 12.12-16

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—  
the King of Israel!’

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

<sup>15</sup> ‘Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!’

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN *Graham Kendrick* © 1986 *Kingsway’s Thankyou Music*

**1 Make way, make way, for Christ the King  
in splendour arrives.**

**Fling wide the gates and welcome him  
into your lives.**

*Make way! (Make way!) Make way! (Make way!)  
for the King of kings. (for the King of kings.)  
Make way! (Make way!) Make way! (Make way!)  
and let His kingdom in.*

**2 He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
the prisoners to free.  
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
the blind shall see.**

*Make way...*

**3 And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
who weep and sigh;  
with laughter, joy and royal crown  
he’ll beautify.**

*Make way...*

**4 We call you now to worship him  
as Lord of all.  
To have no gods before him,  
their thrones must fall!  
*Make way...***

† In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**  
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and his glory.

THE COLLECT

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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Philippians 2.5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*After the reading...* This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

THE PASSION READING  
Mark 14.1 – end of 15

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,  
even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him  
and given him the name that is above every name.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*At the end...* This is the Passion of the Lord. (*No response is made*)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*At the end of the prayers we say together:*

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE PEACE

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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. **Amen.**

## THE EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

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 singing:

**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.**

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.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for 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, St Alban 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. **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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members.*

*In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.*

An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

**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**

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts. And the blessing...  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *Afro American Spiritual*

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?...**
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?...**
- 4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?...**
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?...**
- 6 Were you there when he rose from out the tomb?...**

*Common worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is © The Archbishop's Council 2000. Calamus Licence Number 95 CCL Licence Number 078543*

**Website: [www.stalbansgossopsgreen.co.uk](http://www.stalbansgossopsgreen.co.uk)  
Facebook: St Alban's Gossops Green & Bewbush**