



Saint Matthew's Church  
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street  
Newcastle

**Text of the Mass for Palm Sunday (29<sup>th</sup> March) 2026**

*As the priest enters the church, the following is sung:*

The multitudes with flowers and with palms go forth to meet the Redeemer: and render worthy homage to the triumphant Conqueror: the Gentiles with their lips proclaim the Son of God: and in the praise of Christ their voices thunder through the skies, Hosanna.

+ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

*And with thy spirit.*

We come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the whole Church throughout the world. Christ entered in triumph into His own city, to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember this entry which began His saving work and follow Him with a lively Faith. United with Him in this suffering on the Cross, may we share His Resurrection and new life.

*The priest blesses the palms:*

Let us pray:

God our Saviour, whose Son, Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, bless these palms that they might be a sign 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit ever one God, throughout all ages, world without end.

*Amen.*

The children of the Hebrews, carrying palms and olive branches, went forth to meet the Lord, crying out and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Jesus and His disciples were nearing Jerusalem; and when they reached Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of them with these instructions: 'Go to the village opposite, where you will at once find a donkey tethered with her foal beside her; untie them, and bring them to me. If anyone speaks to you, say, "Our Master needs them"; and he will let you take them at once.' This was to fulfil the prophecy which says, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, "Here is your king, who comes to you in gentleness, riding on an ass, riding on the foal of a beast burden."' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed, and brought the donkey and her foal; they laid their cloaks on them and Jesus mounted. Crowds of people carpeted the road with their cloaks, and some cut branches from the trees to spread them in His path. Then the crowd that went ahead and the others that came behind raised the shout: 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on Him who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the heavens!' When He entered Jerusalem the whole city went wild with excitement. 'Who is this?' people asked, and the crowd replied, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Let us go forth in peace.  
+ In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Thou art the King of Israel,  
Thou David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's Name comest,  
The King and blessed One.

*All glory &c*

The company of angels  
Are praising Thee on high,  
And mortal men and all things  
Created make reply.

*All glory &c*

The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before Thee went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before Thee we present.

*All glory &c*

To Thee before Thy Passion  
They sang their hymns of praise;  
To Thee, now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise.

*All glory &c*

O Jerusalem, look toward the East and behold: lift up thine eyes, O  
Jerusalem, and behold the power of thy King.

The company of angels  
Are praising Thee on high,  
And mortal men and all things  
Created make reply.

*All glory &c*

*(continued over the page)*

The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before Thee went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before Thee we present.

*All glory &c*

To Thee before Thy Passion  
They sang their hymns of praise;  
To Thee, now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise.

*All glory &c*

Words: S Theofulph Of Orleans d 821  
Tr JM Neale 1818 - 66  
Music: S Theodulph  
Melody by M Teschner c 1613  
Adapted and harmonised by JS Bach

*Arriving at the Altar, the priest honours the Presence of God with incense.*

Let us pray:

O God, rich in mercy, You so loved the world that when we were dead in our sins, You sent Your only Son for our deliverance. Lifted up from the earth, He is Light and Life; exalted upon the Cross He is Truth and Salvation. Raise us up with Christ and make us rich in good works, that we may walk as children of light toward the Paschal feast of Heaven. We ask this through Christ, our Deliverance and Hope, Who is alive and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, throughout all ages world without end.

*Amen.*

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary. Morning by morning he wakens, he wakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been confounded; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All who see me laugh me to scorn; ♦ they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

‘He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; ♦ let him deliver him, if he delights in him.’

For the hounds are all about me, the pack of evildoers close in on me; ♦ they pierce my hands and my feet.

I can count all my bones; ♦ they stand staring and looking upon me. They divide my garments among them; ♦ they cast lots for my clothing.

Be not far from me, O Lord; ♦ you are my strength; hasten to help me.

I will tell of your name to my people; ♦ in the midst of the congregation will I praise you.

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; ♦ O seed of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Church in Philippi.

Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

*(continued over the page)*

And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel book is carried to the Lectern:*

Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting Death, Death on a Cross; but God raised Him on high and gave Him the Name which is above all names. Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

*Christ's Presence in the words of the Gospel may be honoured with incense.*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes and the whole council held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate. And Pilate asked Him,

Are You the King of the Jews?

And He answered him.

You have said so.

And the chief priests accused Him of many things; and Pilate asked Him again,

(continued over the page)

Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against You.

But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate wondered. Now at the feast he used to release for them any one prisoner whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate what he was wont to do for them. And he answered them,

Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered Him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for the Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them,

Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?

And they cried out again,

Crucify Him.

And Pilate said to them,

Why, what evil has He done?

And they shouted all the more,

Crucify Him.

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for the Barabbas; and having scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. And the soldiers led Him away inside the palace (that is the Praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed Him in a purple cloak; and plaiting a crown of thorns they put in on Him. And they began to salute Him,

*(continued over the page)*

Hail, King of the Jews.

And they struck His head with a reed and spat upon Him and they knelt down in homage to Him. And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the purple cloak and put His own clothes on Him. And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry His Cross. And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of the skull). And they offered Him wine mingled with myrrh; but He did not take it. And they crucified Him and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified Him. And the inscription of the charge against Him read, The King of the Jews. And they crucified with Him two robbers, one on His right and one on His left. And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying:

Aha! You who would destroy the Temple and build it in three days, save Yourself and come down from the Cross!

So also the chief priests mocked Him one to another with the scribes, saying,

He saved others; He cannot save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the Cross, that we may see and believe.

Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him. And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Eloi, Eloi, lama sabach-thani?

Which means,

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

And some of the bystanders said,

*(continued over the page)*

Behold, He is calling Elijah.

And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink, saying,

Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down.

And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last.

[Pause]

And the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing Him, saw that He thus breathed His last, he said,

Truly, this was a Son of God.

There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, who when He was in Galilee, followed Him and ministered to Him; and also many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

*A homily may follow.*

We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
Maker of Heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds.  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten not made;  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by Whom all things were made;

*(continued over the page)*

Who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from Heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost  
of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried,  
and the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into Heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.  
And He shall come again in glory  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the Lord, the Giver of life,  
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshipped and glorified,  
Who spake by the prophets.  
And we believe  
one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church,  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.  
And we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
+ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

In these days when Christ prayed and entreated His Father in the anguish of His Passion, let us pray to the Lord, not trusting in our own good deeds, but in His power to save:

Fill with Your Spirit Christ's broken Body, the Church. Give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing to take up the Cross and to understand its mysterious glory: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer](#).

*(continued over the page)*

Look in Your mercy upon the world You loved so much that You sent Your Son to suffer and die. Strengthen those who work to share the reconciliation won at so great a price upon the Cross: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer](#).

Hear the cries of those who are exploited or persecuted; and turn to the Law of love the hearts of tyrants and those who inflict cruelty on our world: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer](#).

Pour your healing balm on families that are torn apart, on those who are neglected or abused and those who struggle with their responsibilities: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer](#).

Bring healing by the wounds of Christ to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice [Petitions]. Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying, to find strength in the love of Christ and in His Passion to know their salvation: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer](#).

Strengthen the gentleness, hope and faith of those who care for the sick, the dying and the bereaved and give courage to those who must carry their burdens alone: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer](#).

Welcome into Paradise all who have left this world [Petitions]. According to Your promises, bring them with the company of the Redeemed to share in the fruits of Christ's Death and Resurrection: Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer](#).

In Your love, listen to our private prayers ... Lord, in Your mercy ... [hear our prayer](#).

In union with our Lady, Saint Matthew, Saint Philip, Saint Augustine and all the saints, we ask that Your compassion for us shall fill us with hope and a new purpose in life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
[Amen.](#)

Once we were afar off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near by the shedding of Christ's Blood.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

*As the bread and wine are brought to the Altar and prepared for the Mass, the following is sung:*

My heart awaited reproach and misery; and I hoped for one who would grieve with me, but there was none: I looked for one who would comfort me and there was no one. For food they gave me gall: in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Let us here who represent Cherubim guards around God's throne, As they cry out their thrice holy hymn, Praising the life-giving Trinity, Lay aside all earthly care. Borne by the power of angels' wings To His people now comes the King of kings. Miserere, miserere, miserere nobis.

My song is love unknown,  
My Saviour's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown,  
That they might lovely be.  
O, who am I,  
That for my sake,  
My Lord should take  
Frail flesh, and die?

He came from His blest throne,  
Salvation to bestow:  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know.  
But O, my Friend,  
My Friend indeed,  
Who at my need  
His life did spend!

*(continued over the page)*

Sometimes they strew His way,  
And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King.  
Then 'Crucify!'  
Is all their breath,  
And for His Death  
They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries!  
Yet, they at these  
Themselves displease,  
And 'gainst Him rise.

They rise, and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He  
To suffering goes,  
That He His foes  
From thence might free.

In life no house, no hone,  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb,  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heav'n was His home;  
But mine the tomb  
Wherein He lay.

*(continued over the page)*

Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine!  
This is my Friend,  
In Whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend.

Words: Samuel Crossman 1624 - 83

Music: Love Unknown

John Ireland 1879 - 1962

*The preparation of the Altar continues; incense may be used to honour the place where Christ will become present. At the end:*

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty. All that is in Heaven and earth is Thine:

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own do we give Thee.

God of mercy and compassion, Whose Word calls us home to faith and love, receive our Sacrifice this day and strengthen us in Your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*The priest begins the great prayer of thanksgiving:*

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

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*:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

+ Blessed is He that cometh 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 Apostles  
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.

*The priest holds up the consecrated Host for the people to see.*

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.

*The priest holds up the chalice of consecrated wine for the people to see.*

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, by Your Cross and Resurrection, You have set us free; You are  
the Saviour of the world.

*(continued over the page)*

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 [*N and*] all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
By Whom and with Whom and in Whom,  
*Amen,*  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
*Amen,*  
all honour and glory are Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*

Let us ask God to forgive us our sins and bring us to forgive those who  
sin against us:  
Our Father,  
*Who art in Heaven,*  
*hallowed by 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.*

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.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

*The priest holds up the consecrated elements and invites people to receive Holy Communion:*

+ Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him, Who takes away the sin of the world; happy are they who are called to His Supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive You; but only say the Word and my soul will be healed.

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You: because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

*Holy Communion follows.*

Glory be to Jesus,  
Who in bitter pains,  
Poured for me the life-blood  
From His sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal  
In that Blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion  
Infinitely kind.

Blest through endless ages  
Be that precious stream,  
Which from endless torments  
Did the world redeem.

Abel's blood for vengeance  
Pleaded to the skies;  
But the Blood of Jesus  
For our pardon cries.

*(continued over the page)*

Oft as it is sprinkled  
On our guilty hearts,  
Satan in confusion  
Terror-struck departs;

Oft as earth exulting  
Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel-hosts rejoicing  
Make their glad reply.

Lift ye then your voices;  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious Blood.

Words: Unknown  
Tr Edward Caswall 1814 - 78  
Music: Song 46  
First strain of Song 46  
Orlando Gibbons 1583 - 1625

*After Holy Communion:*

Father, if this Cup may not pass, but I must drink It: then Your Will be done.

Let us pray:

Lord God, Whose blessed Son our Saviour gave His back to the smiters and did not hide His face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Notices may follow.*

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.

Amen.

The Mass is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the Name of Christ. Amen.

The Angel of Lord brought the tidings to Mary;  
and she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:

Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord;

be it unto my according to Thy Word.

Hail Mary &c

The Word was made flesh;

and dwelt among us.

Hail Mary &c

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God;

that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth Your Grace into our hearts, we beseech You O Lord, that as we have known the Incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; in and through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
If Thou wouldst my disciple be;  
Deny thyself, the world forsake,  
And humbly follow after me.

Take up thy cross, let not its weight  
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
And brace thy heart, and nerve thy arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
The Lord for thee the Cross endured,  
To save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross then in His strength,  
And calmly every danger brave;  
'Twill guide thee to a better home,  
And lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
Nor think to death to lay it down;  
For only He Who bears the Cross  
May hope to win the glorious crown.

To Thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
All praise for evermore ascend;  
O grant us in our home to see  
The heavenly life that knows no end.

Words: Charles Everest 1814 - 77

Music: Breslau

Melody from As Hymnodus Sacer Leipzig 1625

Arr F Mendelssohn 1809 - 47

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