



St James's  
PICCADILLY

# The Eucharist for Palm Sunday



**Sunday 29th March 2026  
at 11am**

With a congregation in the church  
and live on YouTube



*Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.*

*Everyone is warmly invited to receive communion or a blessing so please do come forward at the appropriate time.*

***Today we extend a warm welcome to our visiting donkey and handler from Hackney City Farm.***

***Please gather outside around the pulpit in the courtyard.***

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

### **OPENING RESPONSES**

*The priest says*

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **BLESSING OF THE PALM CROSSES**

*Please hold up your palm cross as the prayer is said.*

*The priest says*

Eternal God,

Your son Jesus Christ challenged the authority of the world by riding into the city on a donkey.

Bless + these palm crosses.

May they be for us signs of your self giving love, that we may have the courage to walk with you, as Hosanna still turns to Crucify in our present time.

**Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE GOSPEL OF THE PALMS

#### Matthew 21.1-11

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 fulfill 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."

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

Please follow the donkey in procession as *all sing (as a round)*

**Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna, Hosanna  
in the Highest,  
Hosanna, Hosanna.**

Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na  
in the high - est! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na!

*... during which the procession moves, led by the donkey,  
along Piccadilly, Church Place, and Jermyn Street.*

*On entering the church, please walk down the central aisle and  
throw your palm down in front of the altar to create a 'carpet of  
palms'.*

## THE COLLECT

*The priest says*

Let us pray.

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.

**Amen.**

## THE GOSPEL OF THE PASSION

### Matthew 26.14-end of 27

*The gospel, telling the story of the last days of Jesus of Nazareth, is presented with the participation of the congregation.*

***Please see the Passion Gospel booklet*** which will have be handed to you with the order of service. The congregation are invited to join in the parts in *red*.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The deacon says*

Let us pray for the world, for the church,  
for all in need and for those who have asked for our prayers.

*Please kneel or sit for prayers led by a member of the congregation.*

## THE PEACE

*The priest says*

Christ is our peace,  
reconciling us to God in one body by the cross.  
We meet in Christ's name to share the peace  
that passes all understanding.

*The deacon says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The priest says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please share the Peace in a socially distanced way if you are in the building, and in the YouTube chat box if you are online.*

*During the offertory hymn, a collection will be taken. If you have cash, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews with the pens available.*

*If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate, which is set to £5, or the QR code on page 13.*

### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

[Tune: Love Unknown; Words: Samuel Crossman (c.1624-1684) alt.]

**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 folk 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!**

**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.**

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 suff'ring goes,  
that he his foes from thence might free.

In life, no house, no home  
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.

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.

## PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*The priest says*

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,  
ever giving yourself that the world might live;  
let us share your death and passion.  
Make us whole in your love.  
**Amen.**

## **GATHERING CHANT** (*Taizé*)

*All are invited to gather round the altar. Should you need to sit, please use any of the benches or seats around the altar at the front of the church.*

*While moving to the altar, please join in singing ...*

**Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom,  
Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.**  
(repeated)

*The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...*

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.**

*The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...*

## **SANCTUS**

*The cantor sings*

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord.\***

**God of heaven and earth adored.**

**Ceasing never, God for ever,**

**Holy Lord.**

*(repeat as a round, second part starting at \*)*

*The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with:*  
*"... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*

*The cantor sings*

Praise to you Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life.  
Come, O Christ.  
Come, O Christ, in glory.**

*The prayer continues ... at the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor ...*

**Blessing and honour,  
glory and power,  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*You are invited to pray in your own language.*

*The priest says*

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**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.**

*The Bread is broken and the priest says*

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.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

*The cantor sings*

**Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata, peccata mundi  
Miserere nobis, miserere nobis,  
miserere nobis.**

**Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata, peccata mundi  
Dona nobis pacem,  
dona nobis pacem, dona nobis pacem.**

*Lamb of God  
that takes away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God  
that takes away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*The priest says*

Come to this table,  
not because you must but because you may,  
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.  
Come, not because your own goodness gives you the right,  
but because you know you need mercy and help.  
Come, because you love God and want to love more.  
Come and meet Christ, for we are one Body, united with God.

## THE COMMUNION

*During Communion, the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars will sing **Ubi Caritas**, words from the liturgy for Maundy Thursday, music by Marianne Kim (b. 1972).*

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.  
Amen.

*Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.  
Amen.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God,  
you have redeemed us with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for the one  
who is the true and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*Notices are given by the congregation, wardens and clergy.*

## HYMN

[Tune: Winchester New; Words: Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868)]

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark all the tribes hosanna cry:  
thy humble beast pursues his road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The winged squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes  
to see th'approaching sacrifice.**

**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 pow'r, and reign.**

## THE BLESSING

*The priest says*

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:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you on this day and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*The deacon says*

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*At the end of the service, the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars will sing **Ride On, King Jesus**, traditional spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan (1957-2003).*



*In addition to the physical collection, if you do not have cash with you, please scan this QR code with your smartphone to make a one-off or regular donation.*

*Alternatively, please visit [sjp.org.uk/donate](http://sjp.org.uk/donate), or use one of the tap donation points in the church. Donations will appear on your bank statement as 'Supported Business'.*

## **For your prayers this week**

### **Parish life and events**

All members of our online community.

Congregation members of St James's preparing for Baptism and Confirmation this Easter.

Our Holy Week and Easter services

We give thanks for the opportunity to proceed with the Wren Project.

### **Those who are ill**

[Alison](#), [Lavinia](#), [Sam](#)

### **Recently departed**

[Christie](#), and for Warren, Cutler, and all who mourn her.

*May she rest in peace and rise in glory.*

## **Holy Saturday and Easter Day community meals and overnight Vigil**

As we move through Holy Saturday towards the Resurrection, there will be a community meal between Vespers 7.30pm and Compline 10pm, before we gather for an overnight Vigil, keeping watch until dawn.

The overnight Vigil is a very special time as we take turns to remain awake by candlelight, reading scripture and accompanying one another through the night. Please bring a sleeping bag, as we sleep in the church – something that many find a moving experience.

Following the dawn service in the garden, there will be an Easter breakfast downstairs in the basement.

**If you would like to join the overnight Vigil, please email David in the Parish Office at [administrator@sjp.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sjp.org.uk) by Wednesday 1st April.**

## Easter Lilies for Remembrance

Donations are now being accepted towards the cost of the floral decoration of the church at Easter.

If you would like to **sponsor a white lily** in memory of someone you love who has died, please email David in the parish office with the name(s) at [administrator@sjp.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sjp.org.uk)



The names of those being commemorated will be included in the order of service on Easter Day - Sunday 5th April.

To make a donation, please go to:

<https://sjp.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/1vundziy>

or scan the QR code.



## Holy Week and Easter at St James's

Join us for a Holy Week pilgrimage as we walk the way of the cross together from sorrow to Easter joy. Everyone is welcome at all of our events and services.

### Palm Sunday - 29th March at 11am

Sung Eucharist with donkey procession and Passion Gospel

### Maundy Thursday - 2nd April at 6.30pm

Eucharist with the washing of feet and Vigil of contemplative prayer. Preacher: The Revd Lucy Winkett

### Good Friday - 3rd April 12noon - 3pm

The Three Hours: prayer at the foot of the cross, with Scripture, silence, poetry and music

7.30pm: J.S. Bach's St John Passion

Performed by the Oxford Bach Soloists - tickets at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

### Holy Saturday - 4th April

7.30pm: Vespers and community meal

10pm: Compline followed by all-night Vigil

### Easter Sunday - 5th April

6.15am: Dawn Eucharist in the Southwood Garden

11am: Sung Eucharist with St James's Music Scholars and Lay Singers. Preacher: The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine



### Sunday 12th April

11am: Sung Eucharist

3pm: Choral Evensong

for Eastertide with

St James's Music

Scholars and Lay Singers.

Preacher: The Revd Lucy Winkett