



### Call to worship

Jesus is king! King of creation, of all nations, of our lives! Let us worship with joy, gratitude, and respect. Hosanna to the Son of David, to God's Anointed One! Hosanna to the king who rides a peaceable donkey! Hosanna here and in the highest! Lord Jesus Christ, on this day you entered Jerusalem in triumph

### **Hymn 263    Hosanna Hosanna** HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST (youtube.com)

Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!  
Lord, we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise;  
Be exalted, O lord my God!  
Hosanna in the highest!

Glory, Glory, Glory to the King of kings!  
Glory, Glory, Glory to the King of kings!  
Lord, we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise;  
Be exalted, O lord my God!  
Glory to the King of kings!

Carl Tuttle © 1985

### Palm Sunday prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, on this day you entered Jerusalem in triumph but riding on a colt, a sign of humility. As we hear this story and as we seek to follow you, help us not just to shout 'Hosanna' and 'Blessed is the coming kingdom' but also to remember that we too are called to humble service and to work for the coming of your kingdom of justice here and now. Amen.

### **Reading**                      Mark 11:1-11 (The Message)

*When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany on Mount Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt*

*tethered, one that has never yet been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'The Master needs him, and will return him right away.'"*

*They went and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it. Some of those standing there said, "What are you doing untying that colt?" The disciples replied exactly as Jesus had instructed them, and the people let them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus, spread their coats on it, and he mounted.*

*The people gave him a wonderful welcome, some throwing their coats on the street, others spreading out rushes they had cut in the fields. Running ahead and following after, they were calling out, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Blessed the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in highest heaven! He entered Jerusalem, then entered the Temple. He looked around, taking it all in. But by now it was late, so he went back to Bethany with the Twelve.*

There is much said about the need for people to look after their mental health – we are encouraged to get out and take a walk, do some exercise or spent time away from everything to rest and recharge. In Mark's gospel we read that Jesus often looked for space, time to be with God, away from the crowds and a chance to 'recharge his batteries' .... And I pray that as we head into this Holy week, that we all can find time to do the same. However, for Jesus that week leading up to his crucifixion, was anything but quiet.

Today is Palm Sunday, a day when we hear about Jesus entering into Jerusalem, travelling on a donkey – as they travelled, the crowds of people got bigger and bigger, waving palm branches shouting their hosannas. I wonder, as I would, if Jesus wanted to hide from the crowds, to get away from it all, and reflect on what was going to happen to him. I wonder to, if he knew that those who on this day shouting Hosanna, would change their shouts to Crucify him, just a few days later.

Jesus knew what his future would be, we have no idea what our future will look like – what our churches will look like when we 'get back to normal' or indeed whether we ever will get back to normal. All we can

do his hope in and trust in Jesus – the one who willingly, entered Jerusalem knowing that by the end of the week he would be killed. As we enter into this holy week, let us never forget, that even though, we might be worried, fearful, or unsure of what will be – God will always be with us, and because of what Jesus did, we can always be certain of God's love for us, and that our hope is secure in God's love.

### **Hymn 351                      In Christ Alone**

[In Christ Alone \(Official Lyric Video\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty, Alison Krauss \(youtube.com\)](#)

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Songwriters: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend © 2001

### **Prayers of intercession**

We pray to you, Lord of palm-branches and the cross, for you understand us and in love you have promised not to push away any who come to you.

So we pray for people who feel pushed away: pushed away from a living faith in Jesus by pressure from friends and family; those who feel pushed away by other people in churches if they do not share the same kinds of ideas, or ways, or clothes; for people who are pushed out by those who want power, whose main love to be noticed, to have control.

We pray for your church that all those who trust in Jesus will be made able by your Spirit to follow his humility, to see and imitate his servant life, to welcome and not to condemn. Help your church to be like Jesus. We pray to you, Lord of palm-branches and the cross, for you know the warm glow of being praised and the loneliness of being hated.

We pray for world leaders, quick to stand in the limelight taking decisions which affect everyone in the world but slow at times to do the steady, less glamorous work to which they are called. We pray for world leaders to understand their role to serve the peoples of the world, that posturing will be replaced by practical action to make a difference, and jockeying for position be replaced by genuine efforts to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and care for those who are weak.

In days when food banks are required in our land to feed families who struggle to provide the basics for life, we ask that you will re-arrange our priorities and help us to live more like Jesus. We pray to you, Lord of palm-branches and the cross, because you know how quickly life changes to death.

We pray for those who have recently lost those whom they have loved. In the shock, confusion, pain and sorrow especially of unexpected loss, we pray for hearts to be open to the comfort of your Spirit, shown through friendship and community and as deep calls to deep.

We remember those we know who mourn in these days, who need to be sure of that you invite those in

sorrow to turn to you; and we name them before you now...

We ask, God of grace, that you will make us more like some of the crowd: that we will follow Jesus and give him our praise in the way we live; that we will turn away from wrong and evil and stand on the Master's side, that we will be faithful in worshipping the one who has come in the Lord's name through our singing, our worship, our prayers, our attention, in giving our skills, time and means through the days of our lives; and in the offering which we make now. Bless, we pray, all that is given to your glory and the good of many. Through Jesus who is the Saviour of all. Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven.....

Hymn 264                      Make Way Make way  
StF 264 Make way make way (youtube.com)

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*

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

And those who mourn with heavy hearts  
Who weep and sigh  
With laughter, joy and royal crown  
He'll beautify

We call you now to worship Him  
As Lord of all  
To have no gods before Him  
Their thrones must fall!

Graham Kendrick  
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### Closing prayer

As the crowds gathered to welcome and celebrate the coming kingdom of freedom, peace and justice, so we lay ourselves before our donkey-riding king, Jesus Christ our Lord. Let his vision be our vision, his kingdom be our kingdom, his call be our call, his journey be our journey, and his life, death and resurrection be our salvation. Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Prayers taken from Worship blogspot (Prayers of intercession) and Roots website. Original material by Rachel Wood.