

Leeds South and West Methodists
Personal Service for Sunday 10 April 2022
Palm Sunday (and Holy Week)



Palm Sunday is, of course, the beginning of Holy Week. This is a Passion service, for which you will need a Bible and a hymnbook: either Singing the Faith, Hymns and Psalms or Mission Praise. You will read the whole of Luke's account, firstly of Palm Sunday, and then from the start of the Last Supper to the end of Good Friday. You will read hymns at various points. You may wish to read the whole service on Palm Sunday; or in stages on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; or more than once. Traditionally, at such services, there is no sermon. The main thing is to take it slowly and reflect on what you are reading, so that God may speak to you.

Prayer*

The gates of Holy Week are open,
and we come to celebrate our King who rides a donkey.
We bring to you the best of what we are, Lord Jesus,
laying down our lives in service,
as you laid down your life for us. **Amen.**

Introduction: Psalm 31: 9-10, 14-16 **

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also.
For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.

But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, 'You are my God.'
My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

The Entry into Jerusalem: Luke 19:29-48

Hymn StF 277 (HP 173, MP 478), by Samuel Crossman (c1624-1683):

My song is love unknown, verses 1-3

The Last Supper: Luke 22: 1-38

Hymn: "Dusty-footed, heavy-hearted", © Sue McCoan 2011: available on methodist.org.uk

1. Dusty-footed, heavy-hearted, Jesus gathered friends, Shared a meal and, having loved, He loved them to the end.	2. Bread for one who would betray him, Wine for those who fled, Food of life. He blessed, and broke; His body in the bread.
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3. Bitter cup of wine and sorrow,
Garden dark with prayer,
Judas kiss. Unarmed, unbowed,
He faced his captors there.

4. Gift of living, gift of dying,
Gift of blood and breath,
Holy gift. God's love outpoured
Destroys the power of death.

5. Empty-handed, open-hearted,
Gathered in your name;
Our life yours. O giving Gift,
Redeem, renew, reclaim.

The Garden: Luke 22: 39-53

Hymn: StF 780, by Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) © Ateliers et Presses de Taize, 71250 Taize, France. This is a short chant which is sung over and over. If you don't know the tune, simply meditate on the words while you imagine yourself in the olive-grove on a long, dark, hot night.

Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.

The Trial: Luke 22:54 – 23:25

Hymn: StF 277 (HP 173, MP 478), by Samuel Crossman (c1624-1683):
My song is love unknown, verses 4-7

The Crucifixion: Luke 23: 26-43

Hymn: StF 273, by Brian Wren (b1936): ©1975, 1995, Stainer and Bell Ltd.
Here hangs a man discarded

[If you are using Hymns and Psalms, read HP 179, The royal banners forward go, by Venantius Fortunatus (c535-c600) tr Rupert E Davies (1909-1994) and others]

The Death and the Burial: Luke 23: 44-56

Hymn: StF 285 (MP 728), African-American traditional
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Keep silence, for as long as you feel comfortable.

Concluding Hymn as a prayer: we are used to singing this at full volume, to a rousing tune. This time, read the words of And can it be slowly, quietly and prayerfully; StF 345 (HP 216, MP 33) by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

If you can, carry your thoughts with you through Holy Saturday, the "day of emptiness", until Easter Sunday.

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