

CHARLTON  
ST LUKE AND ST THOMAS

# Palm Sunday



# WELCOME

Everyone is welcome at St Luke's and St Thomas's for the celebration of our parish Eucharist. Here we

- gather and prepare to worship God
- confess the ways in which we have let God down
- receive God's forgiveness
- listen to Scripture and to God's word being broken open for us
- affirm what we believe
- pray for the church, the world, our community, those in need and the departed
- share Christ's peace and make our offerings
- celebrate Holy Communion
- receive the bread and wine
- lift our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving
- pause in silence and stillness where God's presence is often felt most powerfully
- receive the blessing and are sent out to love and serve God

We hope that everyone who comes will encounter God here and leave with a desire to walk faithfully with Jesus, guided by the Spirit.

Children and young people are very precious to God and we are striving to reflect that truth in our church communities. In both our churches there are special arrangements for children. Please ask if you want to know more.

We want those taking part in our service to reflect our church communities. If you would like to read, sing, intercede, be a welcome, or serve at the altar, then please make that known to one of the clergy.

Jesus's love knows no bounds, and he has asked us to share the Good News outside our church circles. We want to grow our congregations; that means all of us having a 'culture of invitation' – being prepared to speak well of our church family and invite others to 'come and see'. St Luke's and St Thomas's are committed to all those who don't know God's great love for them – this is why we have a Mission Action Plan. More details about our vision, our mission, our values and priorities can be found in church.

## **PALM SUNDAY**

The Church has developed the structure of Holy Week and Easter over time. By participating in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. Today is Palm Sunday, the procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century. It is accompanied by the reading or singing of the Passion narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated.

The liturgical colour is red.

# LITURGY OF PALM SUNDAY

*We begin our service outside the church.*

## The Gathering

*President* In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Greeting

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

*All* **and also with you.**

## Introduction

*President* 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 people hold up palms or branches while the following prayer is said.*

*President*     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.

*All*                **Amen.**

*The palms are blessed with holy water.*

## **The Palm Gospel**

*Luke 19.28–40*

*Minister of the Word*     Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
                                 according to Luke.

*All*                        **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Minister of the Word*     When Jesus had come near Bethphage  
                                 and Bethany, at the place called the  
                                 Mount of Olives, he sent two of the  
                                 disciples, saying, ‘Go into the village  
                                 ahead of you, and as you enter it  
                                 you will find tied there a colt that has never  
                                 been ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."  
So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!' Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

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

## The Procession

*President*      Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

*We process to church, holding our palms aloft  
and singing a hymn.*

*On arrival in church, the palm crosses of worshippers there are blessed.*

## **The Collect**

*After the procession, when all are in their places, the president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words*

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

*Silence is kept.*

<i>President</i>	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.
<i>All</i>	<b>Amen.</b>

## **Liturgy of the Word**

*Please sit.*

## **Old Testament Reading**

*At the end of the reading ...*

<i>Reader</i>	This is the word of the Lord.
<i>All</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

# New Testament Reading

*At the end of the reading ...*

<i>Reader</i>	This is the word of the Lord.
<i>All</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

*Please stand.*

## Gradual Hymn

## The Passion Reading

*There is a dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel by many voices. When the Passion is announced, the reader says ...*

<i>Reader</i>	The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.
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*At the end, the reader says ...*

<i>Reader</i>	This is the Passion of the Lord.
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*No response is made.*

## Sermon

*After the sermon, there is a period of silence.*

## Prayers of Intercession (overleaf)

*Please sit or kneel.*



# Prayers of Intercession

*Reader* For forgiveness  
for the many times we have denied Jesus,  
let us pray to the Lord.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader* For grace  
to seek out those habits of sin  
which mean spiritual death,  
and by prayer and self-discipline  
to overcome them,  
let us pray to the Lord.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader* For Christian people,  
that through the suffering of disunity  
there may grow a rich union in Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader* For those who make laws,  
interpret them, and administer them,  
that our common life may be ordered  
in justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader* For those who still make  
Jerusalem a battleground,  
let us pray to the Lord.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

<i>Reader</i>	For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
<i>All</i>	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
<i>Reader</i>	For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.
<i>All</i>	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
<i>Reader</i>	For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.
<i>All</i>	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
<i>Reader</i>	For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord
<i>All</i>	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
<i>Reader</i>	That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
<i>All</i>	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>
	<b>Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.</b>

# Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

*President*     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.

*All*                     The peace of the Lord be always with you  
                 **and also with you.**

*President*     Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Offertory Hymn

*During this hymn a collection is taken for the life and mission of the Church, and the gifts of the people are brought to the altar.*

## Preparation of the Table

*President*     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.

*All*                     **Amen.**

# The Eucharistic Prayer

*President* The Lord is here.  
*All* **His Spirit is with us.**  
*President* Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* Almighty God, good Father to us all,  
your face is turned towards your world.  
In love you gave us Jesus your Son  
to rescue us from sin and death.  
Your Word goes out to call us home  
to the city where angels sing your praise.  
We join with them in heaven's song:  
*All* **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.**

*President* Father of all, we give you thanks  
for every gift that comes from heaven.  
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.  
With signs of faith and words of hope  
he touched untouchables with love  
and washed the guilty clean.  
This is his story.  
*All* **This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*President* The crowds came out to see your Son,  
yet at the end they turned on him.  
On the night he was betrayed  
he came to table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people.  
This is his story.

*All* **This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*President* Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks,  
broke it and said:

This is my body, given for you all.  
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

*All* **This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*President* Therefore, Father,  
with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you  
to plead for us and all the world.  
This is our story.

*All* **This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*President* Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.  
May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

## The Lord's Prayer

*Please sit or kneel.*

*President* Standing at the foot of the cross,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

*All* **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.**

# Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

*President* Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
*All* **we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

*The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken.*

*All* **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.**

*(or)*

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

# Giving of Communion

*President* Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away  
the sin of the world. Blessed are those  
who are called to his supper.  
*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word,  
and I shall be healed.**

## Prayer before Distribution

Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs  
from under your table.  
But you, Lord,  
are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us with the  
precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we,  
with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.

*All who usually receive Holy Communion, in this church or another, are welcome to come to the altar now. If you wish to receive a blessing, please keep your head bowed and do not hold out your hands. Authorized words of distribution are used, and the communicant replies **Amen**.*

## Communion Hymn

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept. The Post Communion or other suitable prayer is said.*



# Notices

## Final Prayer

*Minister of  
the Word  
All*

We say together:

**Faithful God,  
may we who share this banquet  
glory in the cross  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
our salvation, life and hope,  
who reigns as Lord now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Blessing and Sending Out

*Please stand.*

*President*

May the Father,  
who so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son,  
bring you by faith to his eternal life.

*All*

**Amen.**

*President*

May Christ,  
who accepted the cup of sacrifice  
in obedience to the Father's will,  
keep you steadfast as you walk with him  
the way of his cross.

*All*

**Amen.**

*President*      May the Spirit,  
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ  
that we may share his glory,  
set your minds on life and peace.

*All*              **Amen.**

*President*      And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All*              **Amen.**

*President*      Go in the peace of Christ.

*All*              **Thanks be to God.**

## **Recessional Hymn**

*Our worship is over: our service begins.*

*You are very welcome to stay for refreshments  
after the service. If you would like to introduce yourself  
or find out more about this church and its mission,  
please speak to one of the clergy or welcomers.*

*Please leave this booklet behind,  
but take the weekly bulletin with you.*

## **ST THOMAS**

Thomas, also called 'Didymus', which means 'the twin', was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus according to all four Gospels, but it is in John that his significance is revealed. Thomas is heard encouraging the other disciples to go to Judaea with Jesus, and he asks the question that led Jesus to describe himself as the Way, the Truth and the Life. Probably most famously however, Thomas was the apostle who doubted reports of the Resurrection of Jesus, causing Christ to show him the marks in his hands, feet and side. Thomas then proclaims the words that have been described as the great climax to John's Gospel by saying to Jesus: 'My Lord and my God!' Traditionally, Thomas is believed to have travelled widely to preach the Gospel, reaching as far as present-day southern India. He is often regarded as the patron saint of India, where, tradition has it, he was martyred.

There has been Christian worship at St Thomas's, Old Charlton, since 1850.

## **ST LUKE**

Luke was a dear friend of St Paul, and is mentioned by him three times in his Letters. Paul describes him as 'the beloved physician' and as his only companion in prison. Luke is believed to be the author of two books of the New Testament: the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Luke's narrative of the life of Christ starts with the Nativity and goes through to his death and Resurrection. Luke is commonly thought to have been a Gentile. He certainly makes clear that the good news of salvation is for all, regardless of sex, social position or nationality.

Without Luke we would not have the parables of the Good Samaritan, the Rich Farmer, the Prodigal Son, or the Rich Man and Lazarus. Traditionally, Luke wrote his Gospel in Greece and died at the age of 84.

There has been Christian worship on the site of St Luke with Holy Trinity, Charlton, since the early twelfth century.

## **ST RICHARD**

Richard de Wych was born in 1197 and worked hard on his father's estate before going on to study at Oxford, Paris and Italy as a church lawyer. When he returned to England, he eventually became Bishop of Chichester. Richard was seen as a model diocesan bishop, moving round his diocese on foot, visiting and caring for his clergy and people, and being available to all who needed his ministry. He insisted that the sacraments be administered without payment and with a proper dignity. On a recruitment campaign for the Crusades, he fell ill at Dover and died there on 3 April 1253. His mortal remains were moved to Chichester. This famous prayer is attributed to him:

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ  
for all the benefits thou hast given me,  
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.  
O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,  
follow thee more nearly. Amen.

There has been Christian worship on the site of St Richard's Church Centre since the late nineteenth century. St Luke's PCC is currently exploring possibilities for developing mission and a new Christian congregation there.

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND