

# twelvebaskets

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## **PALM SUNDAY C**

13th April 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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## Opening Prayers

Palm Sunday God,  
Come riding into the heart of my community,  
My life,  
My journey with you today,  
I pray.

Lord of my church and my home,  
Lord of this community and our whole world,  
I know there is much that is not as you would have it be,  
Including within my own life.  
I know that I have fallen short of your glory,  
And I come to you to say sorry this day.  
Hear my prayers of repentance, O God.

I know too, that even as I come to you in prayer,  
You have already forgiven and accepted me,  
That I am set free by your grace,  
Today and always.

Amen.

**You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar**

**Reading:** Luke 19: 28-40 – [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

As we approach Palm Sunday, we read the passage for this Sunday from Luke 19, where we recount Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This story not only sets the stage for the unfolding of Holy Week but also encapsulates themes of kingship, celebration, and divine orchestration. As followers of Christ, this narrative invites us to reflect on the grace that underlies Jesus' journey towards the cross and what it means to openly celebrate this grace in our lives.

Jesus enters Jerusalem not on a warhorse but on a donkey, fulfilling an ancient prophecy and symbolising a different kind of kingship: peaceful, humble, and grounded in service. This moment highlights the grace of God, who chooses the lowly and simple to reveal divine glory. Reflect on the humility of Jesus and the way his grace often appears in modest, unexpected forms in your own life. How does this understanding of God's grace influence your perception of leadership and power? How can you embody this humble grace in your roles and responsibilities?

The crowds that welcome Jesus spread their cloaks on the road and wave palm branches, symbols of victory and triumph, shouting praises and quoting psalms of blessing. Their celebration is a spontaneous outpouring of joy in recognition of who Jesus is and what he

represents. This festive procession invites us to consider how we celebrate the grace that flows through our lives. What are your “palm branches” and “shouts of Hosanna”? How do you publicly acknowledge and celebrate God’s work in your life? Reflect on the ways you can make your gratitude and joy more visible, as a witness to the grace that sustains you.

When challenged by some Pharisees to rebuke his disciples for their declarations, Jesus responds, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would cry out.” This statement shows us the irrepressible nature of truth and grace: God’s goodness demands to be expressed.

Consider the times when you may have held back from expressing your faith openly. What held you back? How can you find courage, like the disciples, to proclaim God’s grace, knowing that the truth of Jesus demands a witness?

As Jesus makes his way into the city, there’s a palpable sense of something monumental unfolding: God’s redemptive plan in action. The grace of God not only accompanies Jesus but actively prepares the way for salvation. As you meditate on this passage, think about how God’s grace is preparing the way in your own life. Are there areas where you feel God leading you towards something new? How can you cooperate more fully with that grace, allowing it to pave your path and guide your decisions?

This Palm Sunday, let the grace of God, seen in Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, inspire you to walk boldly and humbly in your faith. May you find joy in celebration, courage in proclamation, and direction in God’s gracious preparations. As you wave your palm branches, whether literally or figuratively, let them be signs of your commitment to live out the grace that calls you forward, to the praise of his glorious grace.

**Hymn:**

265 STF – Ride on, ride on in majesty! – [YouTube](#)

**Blessing**

The pilgrim road is calling you forth,  
The invitation is to rise and go from this place,  
Out into the day, the week, the month ahead.  
As you continue your Lenten journey,  
The Lord will walk alongside you,  
And set you free, by the divine grace of heaven.

Amen.

# Prayers and Prayer Pointers

## Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April

- Today marks the beginning of Holy Week. Take a moment to think about the week ahead for you – will you be able to make time this week to travel the journey with Jesus through the Last Supper, to Good Friday, through crucifixion to resurrection and new life.
- How can you make space amongst this week to listen to what God is saying and how this ancient story might help you with your spiritual journey at the moment?

## Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

- Consider how God is love, and where there is love, there is God. Leave a note, or send a text message, to tell somebody you love them or you're grateful for them. Pray for them as you write.

## Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

- Listen to this hymn: Blessed Assurance – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5a0wBF4ok0>
- Consider how your story is part of God's story. What has God been doing in your life? Give thanks.

## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April

- Today is Maundy Thursday, the day we mark the meal Jesus ate with his disciples before his crucifixion.
- On this day, could you pray for all those living in fear of what is to come – perhaps waiting for a conviction or a decision that will affect their future, those fearful about going in to work, or afraid for their own safety. Perhaps someone you know is in this situation – how can you be a support to them this week?

## Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April

- It's Good Friday, the day when we mark Jesus' death on the cross. It is a painful story, which might be triggering for all of us dealing with our own stories of grief and young lives lost.
- Hold the space today, if that is you. Seek help. Talk to someone.
- If it's not you, and you have the courage to reach out to someone with their own journey of grief, consider sending a message, or saying a prayer.

## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April

- Today is the in-between day. The day between death and resurrection. The waiting day.
- Hold the space for lament today. What do you need to grieve and let go of? How can lament help you respond to the needs of the world and community around you?