

**saint benedict's table**  
a Palm Sunday liturgy for unusual times

*Hosanna, hosanna*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name,  
comes in the name of the Lord*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of God, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. Yet it has been so different a Lenten season this year, and so many of our observances have been from a distance, lacking the familiar taste of bread and wine. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise; bold hosannas sung in hope that he could save them; for the Hebrew word hosanna means "save us". This year that word should ring with a deeper weight. We have no palms to bless, no palm crosses to hold high and then take home with us as a symbol of this night. We know that the path that lay before Jesus led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Though this night we greet him as our King, we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We know, too, that he shares in our suffering, holds us in our anxiousness, weeps when we weep. Differently this year, we will follow him from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. Pray that we may share his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help,  
Lord God of our salvation,

that in this time of upheaval and uncertainty,  
we may yet enter into remembrance  
of those mighty acts  
whereby you give us life and immortality;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everliving God,  
in tender love for all our human race  
you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross.  
May we follow the example of his great humility,  
and share in the glory of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Word**

Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 21:1-11

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon – Jamie Howison

*He who was known as one of us  
Humbled himself to obedient death  
Even death on a cross  
He who was known as one of us  
Humbled himself to obedient death  
Even death on a cross*

*O what love  
O what love  
O what love*

Intercessory Prayers

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

## Confession and Absolution

In this stillness, I invite you to speak to God of that in your own life that is born of sin, or of your fears, or of your wounds; things done better left undone, or the things we fail to do, the people we can't quite manage to be. I invite you to confess the shape of your life to an almighty yet merciful God.

*A time of silence, followed by the song of confession*

*I have sinned in thought and word and deed  
against the One who calls me as His own  
these things I do confess to him whose righteousness  
alone can save me by His blood*

*what can save me?  
what can save me?  
nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ*

*I have not done what I should have done  
and have done things that were better left undone  
these things I do confess to him whose righteousness  
alone can save me by His blood*

As we speak the truth of our lives to God—God who is merciful and just—we are reconciled and drawn home again and again and again.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*If to heaven's heights I fly  
You are still beside me,  
Or in death's dark shadows lie,  
You will stay close by me  
If I flee on morning wings  
Far across the grey sea,  
Even there your hand will lead,  
Your right hand will guide me*

#### The Blessing

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;  
Grace to risk something big for something good;  
Grace to remember that the world is too dangerous  
for anything but truth,  
and too small for anything but love.  
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon  
you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world we pray  
That You, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.*

*From evil dreams defend our sight,  
From fears and terrors of the night;  
Tread underfoot our deadly foe,  
That we no sinful thought may know.*

*O, Father, that we ask, be done,  
Through Jesus Christ, Your only Son,  
And Holy Spirit, by Whose breath,  
Our souls are raised to life from death.*  
(Setting by Gord Johnson)