

Holy Monday

Welcome as we gather together in spirit to worship God on this Holy Monday.

As we keep Holy Week and Easter this year, we are inviting all those who join us through our online worship resources to travel back spiritually with us to the time of Jesus. As we do so, we contemplate how Jesus who walked on this earth 2000 years ago continues to walk with us today. We also pray that he will bring his love and transforming grace to us and all those we pray for.

Holy Monday is the day when we traditionally think of Jesus going into the Temple and cleansing it. This is often thought of as a day of conflict.

During our services in Holy Week, we are inviting you, if you can do so safely, to light a candle as we pray together.

During the cleaning of the Temple, just turned over the tables of the money changers and made a whip to drive out the animals and the stall holders. Today, you may wish to place a few coins by your candle, to help you focus on today's theme.

You may wish to stop this recording now, to give you time to collect a candle, matches or lighter and a few coins to place before you.

Lighting of a candle

If you have a candle with you, please light it now.

Greeting

The candle reminds us that we are in the presence of Jesus, he is with us now.

We meet together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Introduction

Today we recall all that happened when Jesus entered the Temple on the day after Palm Sunday, the scriptures tell us:

Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, 'It is written,

"My house shall be called a house of prayer";

but you are making it a den of robbers.'

(Matthew 21: 12-13)

Call to worship

Come, pilgrim people.

Come to worship the liberator and peacemaker
who turned over the tables and cleansed the Temple.

Come to worship, pilgrim people.

A gathering prayer

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
who stand by night in the house of the Lord!

Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord.

May the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion.

A pray as we journey together this week

Draw us, Lord, to yourself by the power of your Spirit.

Quieten our hearts and our minds as we approach in worship.

Hold us in the love of your Son as we follow him through this Holy Week.

Journey with us, Lord.

A prayer of confession

Cleanse us, Lord, from all that distorts your image in us:

in your mercy, forgive us.

For all that divides us from one another and from you:

in your mercy, forgive us.

For our satisfaction with less than the truth:

in your mercy, forgive us.

For any dishonesty in thought or action:

in your mercy, forgive us.

For words and actions that are unworthy of you:

in your mercy, forgive us.

May the Lord forgive us.

May he grant us peace in our hearts.

May he lead us by his Spirit,

into the ways of justice and peace. **Amen.**

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,

who in your tender love towards the human race

sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross:

grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,

and also be made partakers of his resurrection;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm

(92: 1-4)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord:
to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

**to declare your love in the morning:
and your faithfulness by night.**

to the music of the lute and harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

**For you, O Lord, have made me glad in your work;
at the works of your hand I sing for joy.**

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark

(11: 15-19)

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then they came to Jerusalem. And Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, 'Is it not written,

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations"?
But you have made it a den of robbers.'

And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. 19 And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

There was a discussion in a church council meeting about the idea of placing a book stall at the back of the church. There were some who thought it was ok to sell a church guidebook, perhaps bibles and prayer books, but selling cards, CDs and gifts would be totally inappropriate. Others said it would be fine to sell anything.

One person asked 'What would Jesus do? Surely he would have thrown out all this buying and selling.' To justify this the person made reference to Jesus cleansing the Temple.

Someone challenged this by saying Jesus was only against dodgy dealing and the church bookstall was not designed to cheat anyone! Others said that if there weren't animals and other goods that had been passed by the priests as acceptable sacrifices, then there would be nothing for people to buy and offer as sacrifices. That would mean that no one could worship in the Temple! They all argued from their own point of view and some found ways to use the words and actions of Jesus to support their own thinking.

After much discussion and disagreement, an elderly member of the council asked to speak. 'I wonder,' she said, 'if what really matters is that first we get our worship right and then worry about the bookstall later. How far is our church really a place of prayer? Are we really a welcoming place so that anyone, whatever their background, can come amongst us and worship without us making them feel awkward, in our own way almost? I have to admit I don't like it when someone sits in my usual place and sometimes I

let it show. The Lord said that his house should be a house of prayer and for all nations. I think that means anybody and everybody – including the people we don't always understand or like.

These times of being away from our church buildings and having all the things we take for granted and enjoy, are a great opportunity to think carefully and reflect honestly and openly. Is the church we usually gather in exactly as Christ would like it to be? Is it a place where all people feel welcome and at home? Are we willing to change our worship and our routines to help others to feel close to God? Are we as individuals and as a community generous in spirit and willing to love everyone without condition? Where are our barriers and what things do we have in the midst of our worshipping community that Jesus would like to drive out?

Prayer

Lord you came to the Temple.

May we delight in worshipping you.

You drove out traders and upturned tables.

May we be passionate for the truth.

You wanted the Temple to be a place of prayer for all.

May we welcome all who seek you in our midst.

You faced opposition with courage.

May we be brave in standing up for you.

Lord, we pray for all who lead worship,
that they may be true to your word
and sensitive to the needs of your people;
that all they do may be for your glory
and the honour of your name. **Amen.**

Lord, we pray for all who worship,
that they may do so in spirit and in truth,
open to your forgiveness
and drawn by your Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, we pray for all with whom we disagree,
that we may treat them with respect
even when feelings run high.
Help us to find a way through our quarrels,
through the grace and guidance of your Spirit. **Amen.**

(Short piece of music.....if possible)

Prayers of Intercession

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The Lord's Prayer

As Jesus, who is the true vine and bread of life, has taught us, so we 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.**

Final Prayers

As we come to the end of our time of worship,
let us continue to celebrate Christ our king,
the liberator, the servant,
the one who caused disturbance –
and we ask for the grace and strength of God to do the same. **Amen.**

A personal prayer

Let us pray together, as we say:

**Jesus, I journey with you today,
as you journey with me.
Let me go where you go.
Let me speak your words.
Give me the grace to bring
your peace and your love
into the world by all I say and do. Amen.**

Blessing

May the Lord hold each one of us in his loving arms;
may he grant us restful sleep and peace in our hearts;
may he bless us and keep us safe this day, this night, and always. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.