

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, April 2nd, 2023
Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**Let the World Quake
Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11**

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

As we are called into worship today,
it is sobering to remember
that when God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus,
most of the world did not recognize him
and therefore did not worship him.
Today we ask for faith that will open our eyes
to see Jesus for who he is,
that we might worship him in truth.
People of God, behold and see your God!

**We open our eyes to see his glory.
We open our ears to hear his wisdom.
We open our hands to offer him gifts.
We open our mouths to sing his praise.
We open our hearts to offer him our love.
He is Lord!**

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

We praise you, O God,
for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ.
He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph
and was proclaimed Messiah and King
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.
Just as we carry these branches,
may we follow Christ in the way of the cross,
that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Opening Hymn #214: "All Glory, Laud and Honour" (V 1,2,3)

Refrain:

All glory, laud and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and blessed one. (Refrain)

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present. (Refrain)

To thee before thy passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. (Refrain)

Call to Confession

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

**Jesus, our Lord, we shout hosannas to praise you.
With eager hands, we place our cloaks and palms on the path before you.
Yet, Lord, we confess that the mouths that seek to praise you often deny or defy you.
And we confess that the hands that seek to serve you often become fists.
Lord, hear us as we confess to you our sins in our hearts.**

Assurance of Pardon

Christ came into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world through him should be saved.

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children.
And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Hosanna! Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen.

Music Ministry: “Ain't No Rock Gonna Shout For Me”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 118:19-29

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
 that I may enter through them
 and give thanks to the LORD.

**²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
 the righteous shall enter through it.**

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
 and have become my salvation.

**²² The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the cornerstone.**

²³ This is the LORD's doing;
 it is marvelous in our eyes.

**²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
 let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

²⁵ Save us, we pray, O LORD!
 O LORD, we pray, give us success!

**²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
 We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

²⁷ The LORD is God,
 and he has made his light to shine upon us.
 Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
 up to the horns of the altar!

**²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
 you are my God; I will extol you.**

**²⁹ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
 for his steadfast love endures forever!**

Children's Hymn #216: “Hosanna”

Hosanna, Hosanna

Hosanna in the highest!
 Hosanna, Hosanna,
 Hosanna in the highest!

Lord we lift up Your name
 with hearts full of praise
 Be exalted oh Lord my God!
 Hosanna in the highest! (Glory to the King of Kings!)
 (second time around)

Glory, Glory
 Glory to the King of Kings!
 Glory, Glory,
 Glory to the King of Kings!

Children's Lesson

Prayer for illumination (Congregant Prepared)

Scripture

Matthew 21:1-11

21 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion,
 'Behold, your king is coming to you,
 humble, and mounted on a donkey,
 on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.' "

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Sermon

It was on Palm Sunday, in roughly the year 33 A.D. in the Holy city of Jerusalem. The beginning of the Passover festival in Jerusalem which was one of the three festivals held in which all Jewish males over the age of twenty years old were required to attend. Pilgrims who had come to the festival were jamming all of the roads that led into the city, it is estimated that between two and two and a half million Jewish pilgrims traveled to the city of Jerusalem each year to commemorate the great deliverance of Israel from Egypt, the time when the Passover lambs were sacrificed as a ransom to save the first-born children of Israel from the fate of the first-born of Egypt. This was the final plague of the ten which God had cast upon Pharaoh and his people, and it was the one that finally broke Pharaoh and Egypt and allowed Israel to be released from their slavery and begin their journey into the promised land. On this Passover in the great city of Jerusalem, between 200,000 and 250,000 lambs would be sacrificed in commemoration of that first Passover. However, little did they know that here was one lamb, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world, on the way to Jerusalem to participate in His own sacrifice, a sacrifice that would change the world, a sacrifice that would change eternity, and a sacrifice that would change the lives of Christians for all the ages.

When Jesus rode into the packed city, on that donkey, on that day, he was giving everyone gathered for the festival a chance to recognize him as the Messiah, The King of Israel, The king of All. He was giving everyone gathered the chance to submit their lives to him as Lord, but ultimately this would not happen. The people would not submit to him as king, instead they would turn against him, call for his crucifixion, and mock him in his death with a sign that read 'Jesus the King of the Jews' above his head on the cross. Some of those who would hail him as the Messiah as he rode into Jerusalem on that donkey would be the ones calling for the release of Barabbas. A people that refused to give authority in their lives over to the true king, a people who wanted to stay set in the ways in which they had become comfortable.

This is in fact the same scene we see enacted in the lives of many people even today. Jesus comes humbly into their lives, presented to them as the Gospel. Jesus loves you; he wants to make you part of Gods family. People get excited, after all who would not want the blessings of God, who would not be excited to receive His grace, His mercy, His compassion, all of His love. People are excited because they are thinking of all of the things that they can get out of God. Then they learn that they have to surrender to him, they have to obey his commands, they have to repent from sinful ways and they begin to think about whether or not they really want Jesus in their lives at all.

This is a critical point of faith for those who are wrestling with Christianity. Everyone in the world wants all the benefits of Christianity, but they want to be the ones in control. This is why we see so many twisted forms of Christianity flourishing in the world. They modify the Scriptures, focus on their feelings, and forget God's Words, because they

want to feel like they have the benefits of being a follower of Christ, but they do not want to obey His commands, and live by His book. They want Jesus to sit quietly in their lives, giving them all the things that they want, in truth they desire to live according to the flesh, not the spirit. They want to be able to ask God for the things that they desire and that they want, not to give up the sins that the Word of God calls for them to repent and abandon. They want to keep some aspects of their lives off limits to God. This is why we are seeing this rise in people and denominations that were once called Christian declining in moral convictions, compromising with the ways of the world, and giving up the idea that God's Word is infallible. People who are calling themselves Christian, and living without any visible indicators that they are any different from anyone else in the world, without any evidence of God in their lives or in the lives of those around them.

Being a true follower of Christ creates conflict in our lives.

Galatians 5:17

¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Christians are always undergoing this spiritual battle between the flesh and the spirit, between our desire to control our lives and the desire to hand everything over to God and place all of our faith and trust in Him. This conflict will bring us frustration, unhappiness, and suffering. There will be times when our hearts will be unable to be at peace. There is a spiritual battle going on in every Christian between the old person they were and the new person they are in Christ.

James knew this, in his book he wrote of the struggle between the spirit and the flesh. In his book he tells us that our selfishness is the primary source of this conflict.

James 4:1-5

4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

The passions that this verse talks about us asking for in Greek is 'hedonon' they root of the English word 'Hedonism'. Hedonism is one of the cores of our modern society, it is a philosophy that says that your personal pleasure is the chief goal of life. This is what the world is doing, indulging in their pleasure of the flesh, to try to take away the pains that

they feel. If a Christian tries to live this way, they will find that the pleasure is fleeting, and that conflict will arise in their life.

James uses the terms quarrels, fights, war, and murder. We are at war within ourselves. A war between wanting to control our lives and surrendering to God. The flesh of a Christian is at war with the Spirit of God and the core of that is our selfishness. The primary problem is our narcissism, we love ourselves and we want to put our needs and our desires at the center of our lives. We want God, but we want him our way, and only when it benefits us. This is why so many people claim to be Christian and still live their lives any way they want. They want to indulge in the flesh, to enjoy their pleasures, and they do not want to have to give any of them up. They begin to change who God is into the image of God that they want, because when it comes down to it, they would rather lose God than to give up the sin in their lives. James is telling us that we cannot have it both ways. We cannot be double minded. James reminds us that when we pray it should not be for our own selfish desire, out of our own selfishness, but instead we should be praying that the will of God would be carried out. This is the truth we are all double-minded, and that was what we are witnessing here as Jesus rode into Jerusalem, a double-minded people, people who at one moment are praising the Messiah and then just a few days later calling for his death.

On that day Jesus rode into the city, people honored him in a way that would befit a King. Jesus was seen as the Saviour, the Deliverer, as the Son of God.

Up until this day, Jesus was seen by most people as a prophet, yet he is about to show them all he is the Messiah. The coming of the Messiah had been prophesized for 1500 years and the fact that Jesus is entering Jerusalem on what could be the exact day that was predicted by the Prophet Daniel's famous prophecy of 70 weeks and 70 years, exactly 173,880 days after the decree went out from King Artaxerxes from Persia to rebuild Jerusalem in 445 B.C. It is only the true Messiah that could present himself in such a way on this day and that is exactly what Jesus is doing as he rides into Jerusalem.

Here on this day after three years of the most intensely supernatural ministry that the world has ever seen, Jesus rides into Jerusalem, publicly declaring himself as the Messiah, The Son of David, The king of Kings and the Lord of Lords, The Great king, Prophet, and Priest.

The first lesson true Christians can take from the Scripture today, is the importance of placing trust in God alone. Jesus senses his disciples to get a donkey for him to ride into the city and they do so without questioning him. In their time with him they have learned to trust him implicitly, without questions, because they know that ultimately, he is always right. Everything that Jesus had done, every healing, every miracle, every teaching had been done exactly as he said it would be done. They knew he was always truthful, always faithful and always reliable and because of this they did not hesitate for

a minute when Jesus sent them to get the donkey without coin. They walked by faith and not by sight, we would say.

They went to get the donkey because Jesus had told them to, even though they did not understand the reasoning or the purpose, they just trusted and obeyed. This is what true Christians are called to do, to walk by faith in a world that wants to walk by feelings. We should not be trusting in our hearts, our wisdom, or our feelings, we should be fully trusting in the Word of God to guide our lives.

That little donkey he rode on fulfilled another prophecy, the prophecy of Zechariah, one that said the Messiah would enter the daughter of Zion, the city of Jerusalem, in a completely different way than any other king. The true Messiah would enter the city not proud and boastful, not arrogant and in a display of mighty power like most kings. Israel's almighty king would instead enter the city humbly and gently on a mission of peace and reconciliation with his own people and with the world. Instead of being a king who would require his subjects and soldiers to serve him and die for him, he would enter as a king who would serve and die for his subjects so that they might live forever in his kingdom.

It did not matter to Jesus that the people who worshiped him that day were double minded. It did not matter to him that they were sinners who were lost to the desires of their flesh, it did not matter to him that in just a few days that they would be the ones calling out for his crucifixion and spitting on him as he carried his cross to Calvary. He came humbly and gently, loving them before they could know how great his love for them was, how great his sacrifice would be upon the cross.

This is another lesson for true believers, it is mercy, compassion and grace that brings people to repentance. Like we saw in the story of the woman at the well, Jesus spoke to her plainly of her sin and when she had accepted the truth of her sin, she was able to see Christ for the Savior that he is. We are called to live humbly and gently, loving others regardless of differences, regardless of sin, even when we are sinned against, and even when people reject us and reject Christ.

God gives us all a lifetime to come to repentance through his kindness and his love, a whole lifetime where those who live their lives on earth in their own selfish and pleasure-seeking ways prove over and over again to be deserving of God's justice and God's wrath. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem it was humbly and gently on that donkey, however, when he returns in his second coming it will be on a great white warhorse from heaven, followed by His armies and it will be to judge his enemies and to establish his kingdom for all of eternity.

As he rode into Jerusalem on that day, everyone recognized him as king and that could only be the power of the Holy Spirit. They began to place their own cloaks on the road before Jesus as he rode into the city, literally laying out the red carpet for him as he

entered the city, grabbing up the cloaks he rode over and rushing them to the front so they could once again be laid out before him. Those who had no cloaks were cutting branches from nearby trees, some of them palm fronds and spreading them along the road in front of the Great King as he rode into the city.

The crowds were caught up in the passion of the moment, before him and after him, they were all caught up in worship and praise, shouting out '**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**'. On that day they all knew who he was, that Jesus was the Messiah, and they were proclaiming it as loudly as they could as they witnessed his entry into the city.

This is a third lesson for true Christians, worship is active, not passive. We are called to worship Jesus with everything we are, engaging both our heart and our mind, in spirit and in truth. Jesus Christ, the King, the Savior, the Lord, and Your God went humbly to the cross to die for your sins, and defeated death for you when he rose from the grave. He sits in heaven now at the right hand of God and all of the blessing you have in your life come from him. It does not matter if you think you have a good voice or a bad voice, you should be shouting his praises with all of your strength, all of your power, with all that you are, every opportunity that you get.

Like the crowds that were gathered there when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, when we worship God with all we are it becomes contagious, others will gain strength and join in, and the praise and worship truly begins to reflect the praise that God is deserving. Scripture tells us that everyone who has breath praise the Lord, and that means everyone, regardless of ability or talent. Our praise should shake the very foundations of the world.

That is what verse ten actually says,

Matthew 28:10

¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?"

The word stirred is 'seio' in Greek, the root of our word seismic or seismograph. The city literally shook, it quaked as if an earthquake had occurred with the power of the praise that was springing forth from the people who were gathered.

If we are to live as true Christians, we need to give up ourselves to him fully, we need to give up all of our selfishness and come to him with all of our faith and trust. Worshipping him with all that we are, we need to struggle with our double minded nature. We need to worship him in such a way that the world quakes.

When we do this, when we worship our God with sincerity and authenticity, when we obey him completely, when we love others impartially and praise him whole heartedly,

we are in Christ. And when we are in Christ something amazing happens, we stir the world, people begin asking the same question that was asked in Jerusalem on that day, 'Who is this? Who is this Jesus?' When we surrender our lives to Jesus our lives will be fulfilled in ways that we could never imagine as we live and serve him as the Salt and Light of His church.

Let us Pray,

Give Us Highest Comfort in Your Grace

Lord God, heavenly Father,
in your fatherly grace you did not spare your only Son
but gave him up to death on the cross.
Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts
that we may find our highest comfort in your grace.
Protect us from temptations to sin more,
and help us patiently bear whatever hardships may come,
so that through him we may have eternal life.

Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Lent 6 / Palm Sunday

Hymn #217: "Ride On, Ride On In Majesty" (V 1,2,5)

Ride on, ride on in majesty;
hark, all the tribes Hosanna cry.
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments strewed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;
in lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty;
in lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain;
then take, O God, thy power and reign.

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Jesus said:
I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you;
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
 to give you thanks and praise,
 O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.
 In your wisdom, you made all things
 and sustain them by your power.
 You made us in your image,
 setting us in your world to love and serve you
 and to live in peace with your whole creation.
 From generation to generation you have guided us,
 sending prophets to turn us from wayward paths
 into the way of righteousness.
 Out of your great love for the world
 you sent your only Son among us to redeem us
 and to be the way to eternal life.
 Therefore we praise you,
 joining our voices with the choirs of heaven
 and with all the faithful of every time and place,
 who forever sing to the glory of your name

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,
 and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
 As one of us, he knew our joys and sorrows,
 and our struggles with temptation.
 He was like us in every way except sin.
 In him we see what you created us to be.
 Though blameless,
 he suffered willingly for our sin.

Though innocent,
 he accepted death for the guilty.
 On the cross he offered himself, a perfect sacrifice,
 for the life of the world.
 By his suffering and death,
 he freed us from sin and death.
 Risen from the grave,
 he leads us to the joy of new life.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,
 we take this bread and this wine
 from the gifts you have given us,
 and celebrate with joy
 the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.
 Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
 as a living and holy offering of ourselves,
 that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen

**Christ has died;
 Christ is risen;
 Christ will come again.**

Gracious God,
 pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
 that the bread we break
 and the cup we bless
 may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
 By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ
 and with all who are baptized in his name,
 that we may be one in ministry in every place.
 As this bread is Christ's body for us,
 send us out to be the body of Christ in the world

Lead us, O God, in the way of Christ.
 Give us courage to take up our cross
 and, in full reliance upon your grace, to follow him.
 Help us to love you above all else
 and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves,
 demonstrating that love in deed and word
 in the power of your Spirit.
 Give us strength to serve you faithfully
 until the promised day of resurrection,
 when, with the redeemed of all the ages,

we will feast with you at your table in glory.
 Through Christ,
 all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
 with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
 now and forever

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

The Story of the Last Supper

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,
 and after giving thanks to God,
 he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take, eat.
 This is my body, given for you.
 Do this in remembrance of me.

Having filled the cup, the minister lifts it in the view of the people, saying:
 In the same way he took the cup, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
 shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
 Whenever you drink it,
 do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
 you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord,

until he comes

The gifts of God for the people of God

This is the body of Christ broken for you.

This cup is the blood of Christ shed for you.

Prayer after Communion

God, our help, and strength,
 you have satisfied our hunger with this eucharistic food.
 Strengthen our faith,
 that through the death and resurrection of your Son
 we may be led to salvation,
 for he is Lord now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3). We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer:

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspert offering@gmail.com If you have an Offering Envelope #, please include it in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (e.g., Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer

(Congregant Prepared)

Closing Hymn #218: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
 through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.
 To Jesus, who had held them close folded to his breast,
 the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.
 From Olivet they followed amid the shouting crowd,
 the victor palm branch waving and chanting clear and loud;

Messiah, God's anointed, rode there in humble state,
'Hosanna, in the highest!' rang out their praises great.

'Hosanna in the highest!' that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
Oh may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in God's joyful presence eternally rejoice!

Pastoral Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
You came to us in humility,
reaching out to all God's little ones with mercy and compassion.
You ask us to do the same.

So today we pray for all those who find themselves in humble circumstances:
For the homeless in our community and for refugees wherever they take shelter;
For the poor and all who find themselves without resources to cope these days;
For those who live in isolated communities in Canada and around the world,
lacking access to care, resources and technology others take for granted.
Strengthen them in your mercy,
and humble us, lest we forget how much we have to be grateful for.

Lord Jesus Christ,
hear us as we pray for all those who have been humbled by life's unexpected turns
We remember before you
those who face illness, pain or injury;
those who have known death or disaster, fear or failure;
and all who struggle with anxiety and uncertainty.
We pray for victims of crime
and those who suffer through the misjudgment or mistake of others.
And we pray for those who suffer because of the consequences
of their own actions and choices.
Embrace them in your mercy,
and humble us, lest we imagine we can live lives untouched by trouble

Lord Jesus Christ,
hear us as we pray for those who have not learned the lessons of humility yet:
for those who live carelessly or drive recklessly, endangering themselves and others;
for those who abuse the trust and power in their positions,
betraying those whose interests are in their hands;
And we pray for those who mislead others for gain
or indulge their fame with no thought for the example they set.
Humble them in your mercy,
And humble us if we are tempted to ignore the consequences of our own actions.

Lord Jesus Christ,
as we watch you walk to your Cross this week,
fill us with humble gratitude that you go before us into any challenge or crisis we may
face.

Give us courage to stand with others facing injustice or prejudice,
and give us words to speak out for those at risk at home or abroad,
for you have given us words to pray for the coming of your kingdom,
your reign of justice, mercy, and peace.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Benediction

May the God who sent his Son
so that we could be adopted as God's own children,
send his Spirit into your hearts—
especially in this week of remembrance and renewal—
and equip you to live
as God's own children,
dearly loved and called to serve a needy world.