



BENEFACT BULLETIN

Church News for

Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

29th March 2026

Palm Sunday

Service Times and Venues

*Daily Morning and Evening Prayer conference calls at 8:30am and 4:00pm
Thursdays 10:30am BCP communion at St Gregory's*

	<i>Morning Services - St Gregory's, Bedale</i>	<i>Morning Services - St Mary's, St John's and Burrill</i>	<i>16:00—Evensong conference call</i>
29th Mar	10:30am Benefice Palm Sunday Service at St Mary's Thornton Watlass #		No evening prayer
30th Mar	7pm Holy Week Service—Burrill		
31st Mar	7pm Holy Week Service—Leeming		
1st Apr	7pm Holy Week Service—Methodist Church		
2nd Apr	7pm Holy Week Service—Thornton Watlass		
3rd Apr	10:30am Walk of Witness starting from Bedale Park Bandstand, with refreshments afterwards in Chantry Hall .		
	2pm Good Friday Service - Bedale		
5th April Easter Day	8:00am St Gregory's #	9:00 Burrill #	Bedale
	9:15am St Gregory's #F	10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #	
		11am St John's, Leeming #	

Communion Facebook Conference Call Tel 03330110945 and enter when prompted Room No.66307496# PIN 9498

PRAYERS

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Bel Newman, Mark Newman, Delma Bode, Olive Robinson,
Chris, Justin, Alison, Dan, John, Rachel Oysten, Doris Pearson, Mal Rowland,
Bailey Cuthbert, Claire Bell, Christina and Christine.

RIP

Betty Gentry, David Hewison Sandyford, Raymond Lawton,
Carol Grayson, and Georgiana Kew.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

READINGS

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.

First Reading - Isaiah 50.4–9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Second Reading - Philippians 2.5–11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 27.11–54

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for

today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.’ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release for you?’ And they said, ‘Barabbas.’ Pilate said to them, ‘Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ All of them said, ‘Let him be crucified!’ Then he asked, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Let him be crucified!’

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.’ Then the people as a whole answered, ‘His blood be on us and on our children!’ So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.’

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.’ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ‘He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, “I am God’s Son.” ’ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, ‘This man is calling for Elijah.’ At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.’ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they

came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COMMENTARY

Palm Sunday holds immense significance in the Christian faith as it marks the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It signifies the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Jesus' earthly life leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection.

The crowd's celebration during Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is a powerful reminder of the recognition of Jesus as the Messiah, the King of kings. People waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9), acknowledging Jesus as the long-awaited Savior.

Palm Sunday also serves as a reminder of Christ's redemptive journey, the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies, and his ultimate sacrifice for the salvation of humanity. It foreshadows the events that would unfold during Holy Week, leading to Easter Sunday.

As Christians, Palm Sunday offers an opportunity for reflection, repentance, and preparation for the Easter season. It is a time to remember the unconditional love and grace of Jesus Christ, who willingly laid down his life for the forgiveness of our sins.

In navigating the journey of faith, Palm Sunday serves as a reminder of the hope, joy, and eternal life that await those who believe in Jesus Christ.

From Palm Sunday, it is important to prepare oneself for the following, meaningful and significant days in the Christian calendar. Here are some steps to help you prepare for Palm Sunday and beyond:

- Reflect on the significance: Take time to meditate on the meaning of Palm Sunday and its place in the Holy Week. Remember that it marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, setting the stage for the events that would unfold leading to His crucifixion and resurrection.
- Study the biblical story: Read and study the accounts of Palm Sunday in the Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19). Familiarize yourself with the details and the message conveyed through this event.
- Reflect on your own life: Use Palm Sunday as a time for personal reflection and renewal. Consider the ways in which you can welcome Jesus into your own heart and life, just as the crowd welcomed Him into Jerusalem.