



Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*



**Palm Sunday**  
**Sunday 24 March 2024, 10am**

# Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem

## Welcome and Announcements

*(People go to their seats in the church with fronds/palms. Ministers gather in the middle of the center aisle. Please stand as you are able)*

**Presider** Behold your king comes to you, O Zion, meek and lowly, sitting upon an donkey. Ride on in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice. Your throne is the throne of God, it endures forever; and the scepter of your kingdom is a righteous scepter. You have loved righteousness and hated evil: therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

**People** **Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Presider** The Lord be with you

**People** **And also with you**

**Presider** Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing - by works of love and self-examination - for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our savior, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love so that we may share in his risen life.

*(The people hold up their palm fronds while the following prayer is said)*

**Presider** God our Savior, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah only days later to suffer and to die, let these palms be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **AMEN.**

**Palm Procession Lesson: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (21:1-11)**

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

**People: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying,

**People: "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth, in Galilee."**

**Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.**

Palm Procession—Hymnal 1982 #156 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty (see insert on page 15 of bulletin)

*(The altar party follow the crucifer around the congregation seats in the church singing the song. Any one from the congregation can join in the procession and also walk and sing with the altar party)*

**Presider: Let us pray. (Please remain standing for the prayer)**

**All: Almighty and ever-living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and The Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated for the lessons)*

**The Psalm:** Psalm 118: 19-29 (in unison)

- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter them  
and give thanks to the LIVING GOD.**
- 20 This is the gate to the HOLY PRESENCE;  
the righteous shall enter through it.**
- 21 I thank you that you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.**
- 23 This is OUR GOD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- 24 This is the day that the FONT OF CREATION has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- 25 Ah! HOLY ONE, help, save us!  
Ah! HOLY ONE, haste, deliver us!**
- 26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the MOST HIGH GOD.  
We bless you from the house of the HOLY ONE.**
- 27 The FAITHFUL ONE is God, and she has given us light.  
Bind the festal offering with ropes of branches, 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 exalt you.**
- 29 Give thanks to the HOLY ONE, for she is good,  
for her faithful love endures forever.**

**New Testament Lesson:** A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians  
(3:23-29, 4: 4-7)

Now before faith came, we were garrisoned and guarded under the law until the faith that was coming should be revealed. Therefore, the law was our instructor until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to an instructor, for in Christ Jesus you are all daughters and sons of God through faith. So, as many of you as were baptized into Christ are clothed in Christ. There is no Jew or Greek, there is no slave or free, there is no male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's and Sarah's offspring, heirs according to the promise. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent God's own Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption like children. And because you are

children, God has sent the Spirit of God's own Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So, you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord    **People:**    **Thanks be to God**



### **Gospel Lesson: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (14:43 – 15:47):**

While Jesus was still speaking (to his followers in the garden of Gethsemane), Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs from the chief priests, the religious scholars, and the elders.



Now Judas the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I kiss is he; seize him and lead him away safely."

Then when Judas came, he went up to Jesus immediately and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.

Then they laid hands on him and took him. But one of the bystanders drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest and

cut off his ear.

Then Jesus said to them, "Is it as for a bandit you all have come out with swords and clubs to seize me? Daily I was with you all in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."



All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following Jesus, with just a fine cloth on his naked flesh. They caught hold of him, but he forsook the fine cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and they assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the religious scholars.

Peter followed him from afar into the courtyard of the high priest and was sitting with the attendants, warming himself at the fire.

Now the chief priests and the whole council sought testimony against Jesus to put him to death but found none. For many gave false testimony against him, yet their testimony did not agree. Some rose and



gave false testimony against him, saying, "Well, we heard him say, 'I will destroy this hand-made temple, and in three days I will build another, that is not hand-made.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up before them and said to Jesus, "No response? What are they testifying against you?"

But he was silent and answered nothing. Again, the high priest spoke to him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You all have heard his blasphemy! How does it appear to you?" All of them condemned him, "Guilty! This is death!" Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" Then the attendants took him and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the high priest's enslaved girls came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus."

But Peter denied it, saying, "I do not know or even understand what you are saying." Then he went out into the front courtyard. Then the cock crowed. And the enslaved girl, on seeing him, began to say to the bystanders again that this man was one of them. But again he denied it.

Then after a little while the bystanders said to Peter again, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

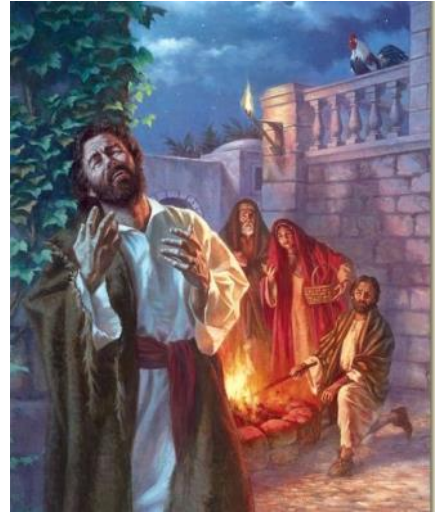


But he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this person you are talking about." And suddenly the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered the thing Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he threw himself down and sobbed.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests took a counsel with the elders and religious scholars and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Judeans?" He answered him saying, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. But Pilate asked him again, "Have you no reply? See how many charges they bring against you."

But Jesus made no further reply, thus Pilate was amazed.

Now at the Passover feast Pilate used to set free for them any one prisoner whom they requested. The man called Barabbas was imprisoned with the insurrectionists (revolutionaries) who had committed murder



in the civil rebellion. The crowd came up and began asking Pilate to do as he usually did for them.

Pilate answered them, saying, “Do you want me to set free for you the King of the Judeans?” For he was aware that the chief priests had turned Jesus over to him because of envy and resentment. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to get him to release Barabbas for them instead.



Again, Pilate answered, “Then what shall I do with him whom you call the King of the Judeans?” They yelled back, “Crucify Him!”

But Pilate asked them, “Why, what has He done that is evil?”

But they yelled all the more, “Crucify Him!”

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, set Barabbas free for them; and after having Jesus scourged, he handed him over to his soldiers to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the property, which is the military headquarters, and they called together the entire cohort. And they clothed him in purple, and they put on him thorns woven into a crown. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Judeans!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple and put his clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

They compelled a passerby, a certain Simon of Cyrene who was coming from the countryside, to carry his cross; he was the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the Golgotha place (which means Skull Place).

And they offered him myrrh wine, but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes, casting lots among themselves for what each would take.

It was the third hour past dawn when they crucified him. The writing above of the accusation against him read, "The King of the Judeans." And with him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left.

The passersby reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! You would destroy the temple and build it in three days—save yourself and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, with the religious scholars, mocked



him among themselves and said, "He saved others; himself he is unable to save. The Messiah, the King of Israel! Come down from the cross now that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also demeaned him.

Now when it was the sixth hour of the day, or noon, darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour of the day, about three in the afternoon. At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with vinegary wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Then Jesus gave a great cry and breathed out a final time. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, stationed facing him, saw that in this way Jesus breathed out at the end, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women watching from a distance; among them were Mary the Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These women followed him and ministered to him when he was in Galilee, and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation—the day before the sabbath—Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who himself was also waiting for the reign of God, went boldly to Pilate and requested for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered that Jesus was now dead, and summoning the centurion asked him whether he had been dead for some time.

When he learned it from the centurion, he gave the corpse to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a fine cloth, and taking him down, wrapped him in the fine cloth, and put him in a tomb that had been hewn out of rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary the Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was put.



## Prayers of the People

Leader We stand with Christ in his way, his life, and his truth. For forgiveness for the many times we have betrayed Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Grace to acknowledge those habits of sin which mean spiritual injury and soul woundedness, and by prayer and dedication to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all people suffering disunity, separation, and discord, may there grow a rich union in acceptance, togetherness, and love, 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 differences in religious practice, worship, and belief a battleground, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardships, failures, or sorrows, or who feel that God is far from them, that they may overcome their adversities and find the comfort of God around them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way, the life, and the truth of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Leader That we, with those who have died in the faith, may find rest and peace  
for our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**People Lord, have mercy.**

**All Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.**

Presider Christ is our peace. We meet in his name and share in his peace.  
The peace of the Lord always be with you

**All And also with you.**

*(The people exchange signs of peace, namaste, hand shakes, fist  
bumps or virtual hugs)*

**Offertory:**

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as an  
Offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Music

H1982 #693 Just as I am vs 1, 2, 4, 5

## **The Holy Eucharist**

Presider The Lord be with you

**People And also with you**

Presider Lift up your hearts

**People We lift them up to the Lord**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**People It is right to give him thanks and praise**

*Presider continues:*

Holy God, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word through whom you have created all things: Who was sent by you, in your great goodness, to be our Savior; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he took flesh and, as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, was seen on earth and went about among us;

He opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks because for our sins he was lifted high

upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself; and by his suffering and death, became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

**Sanctus: S-128: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will,(+), these your gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Who in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and gave you thanks. He gave it to them, saying:

“Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, we believe and affirm:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.  
You are the Savior of the world.**

And so, Gracious God, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the world, rejoicing at his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

We thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We bring before you this bread and this cup.

We pray you to accept this our offering and service, a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us (+), your people, and gather us into one in your kingdom, all who share this bread and cup, so that we in the company of all



your saints may praise and glorify you forever, through him from whom all good things come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

Leader: And now as Jesus taught us, we are bold to say:  
**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, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread:**

*(Presider breaks the bread. A period of silence follows)*

Presider: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

**People: Therefore let us keep the feast**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

*(All are welcome to receive communion in this church. The bread is gluten free and it is real wine. To dip/intinct your bread into the wine, please come to the left altar rail. To sip wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you prefer not to have the wine, that is also acceptable. If you are not ready to receive communion with us, we invite you to come forward and cross you arms over your chest to receive a blessing instead).*

Communion music

H1982 #158 Ah Holy Jesus

***Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayers, Travelers, and Gratitude***

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Presider: Let us pray:

**All**            **Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified, mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

**Benediction:**

Presider: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **AMEN.**

Closing Song

H9182 #168 O Sacred Head Sore Wounded

**Dismissal:**

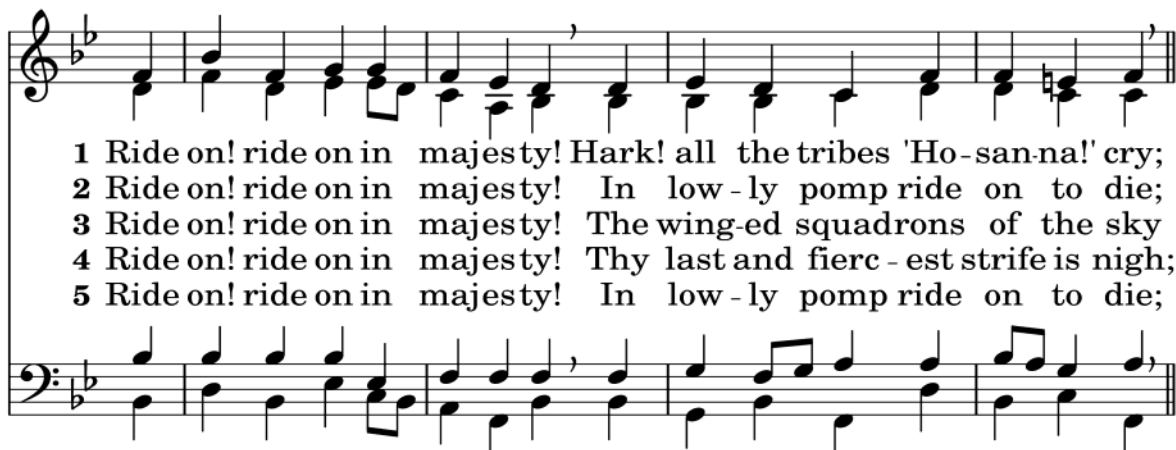
Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to love and serve.**

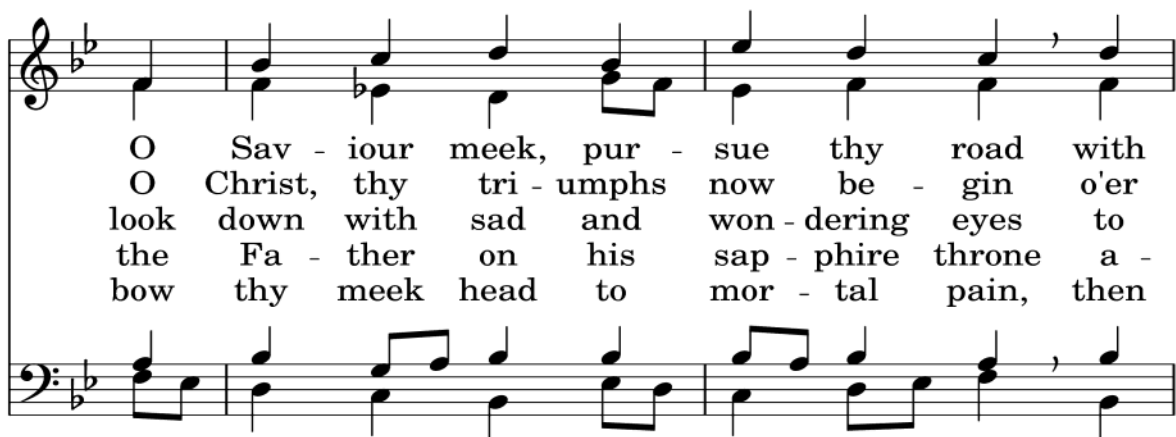
Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Insert: Palm Processional—Ride On! Ride on in majesty! Tune Winchester new

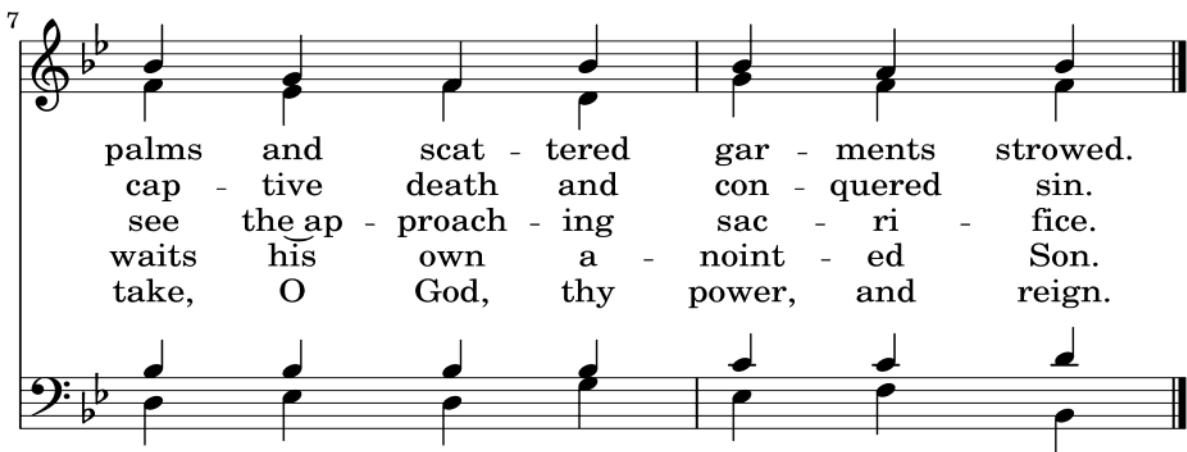


1 Ride on! ride on in majesty! Hark! all the tribes 'Ho-san-na!' cry;  
 2 Ride on! ride on in majesty! In low-ly pomp ride on to die;  
 3 Ride on! ride on in majesty! The wing-ed squadrons of the sky  
 4 Ride on! ride on in majesty! Thy last and fierc-est strife is nigh;  
 5 Ride on! ride on in majesty! In low-ly pomp ride on to die;



O Sav-our meek, pur-sue thy road with  
 O Christ, thy tri-umphs now be-gin o'er  
 look down with sad and won-dering eyes to  
 the Fa-ther on his sap-phire throne a-  
 bow thy meek head to mor-tal pain, then

7



palms and scat-tered gar-ments strowed.  
 cap-tive death and con-querred sin.  
 see the ap-proach-ing sac-ri-fice.  
 waits his own a-noint-ed Son.  
 take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Church Hymnary (4th ed.) 365

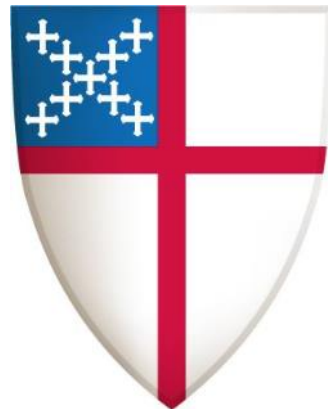
Words: Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868)

Music (WINCHESTER NEW (CRASSELIUS), LM): Adapted from a chorale in *Musikalisches Hand-Buch*, Hamburg, 1690; arranged William Henry Monk (1793-1870)

*Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.*



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Please leave voicemail message

### Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check  here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



<input type="checkbox"/> Info Update	Giving Envelopes	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail News Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	(first)	(Mid.)	(Last)
Hm: _____	Cell _____		
Email: _____	Anv. Date _____		
Adrs: _____	BrthDate _____		
City, St., Zip: _____			