

Prayers of the People – 24 March 2024

Bidding: Let us follow in your way;

Response: let us walk with you to Jerusalem.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Crowds cheered when you came to Jerusalem;

you came to bring peace, but the civil authorities did not welcome you.

Jesus, we pray for your world:

for peace that brings an end to violence, oppression and war – especially in Ukraine and in the Holy Land;

for peace that enables all people to live with dignity and justice;

for world leaders and for all who commit their lives to the work of peace.

Silence

Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way;

let us walk with you to Jerusalem.

Crowds cheered when you came to Jerusalem;

you came to bring the freedom of the Spirit, but the chief priests plotted your death.

Jesus, we pray for your church:

for a church freed from false dogma and legalism, discord and division;

for a pilgrim church, ready to travel wherever you lead;

for all leaders of your church and for all who minister in your name.

Silence

Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way;

let us walk with you to Jerusalem.

Crowds cheered when you came to Jerusalem;

you came to bring love, but you were betrayed and deserted by your friends.

Jesus, we pray for this community:

for our families, our friends, for those with whom we work and learn and socialise;

for the hungry, the homeless and those without hope for the future;

for all who live in fear or despair and all who know the pain of betrayal.

Silence

Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way;

let us walk with you to Jerusalem.

Continued over

Crowds cheered when you came to Jerusalem;
you came to bring healing to the sick and release to the captive, but you were
beaten, imprisoned and killed.

Jesus, we pray for all in need:

for prisoners of conscience and those held without trial;
for all whose beliefs lead them to frightening and lonely places;
for the friendless, the unwanted and all from whom we turn away;
for the sick and all who mourn.

Silence

Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way;

let us walk with you to Jerusalem.

Crowds cheered when you came to Jerusalem;
you travelled towards the Cross, but Jerusalem was also the place of the empty
tomb.

We give thanks for faithful people throughout the ages who have followed you
on this journey.

Keep us faithful through all the suffering and death of the present age, so that
we may rise to enjoy the fullness of life with you in the age to come.

Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way;

let us walk with you to Jerusalem.

Amen.

Adapted from:

Janet Nelson, *Let Us Pray: Intercessions following the Revised Common Lectionary*,
Sydney: HarperCollins, 1999, pp.124-125