
✧ PALM SUNDAY ✧

ORDER OF WORSHIP • MARCH 24, 2024 • 9:00 AM

✧ Indicates the congregation should stand as able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

✧ CALL TO WORSHIP *From the rear of the sanctuary*

*The congregation turns to face the processional cross
at the rear of the sanctuary*

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the ✧ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

WL: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

All: **Hosanna in the highest!**

WL: Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. Today 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. Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we who carry them may follow him 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.

All: **Amen.**

✧ THE ENTRANCE INTO LUKE 19:35-40
JERUSALEM

WL: They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

✠ PROCESSIONAL SONG BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES

Sing with the choir as we turn to face the cross in procession.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na!

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

✠ PROCESSIONAL HYMN HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA

**Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.**

**“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heav’n our King.
Oh, may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!**

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

All: **Hosanna in the highest!**

WL: Let us confess our sin to our God, trusting in his steadfast love.

All: **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.**

A moment of silence for personal confession.

WL: Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118:

Let those who fear the LORD say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. In Christ, God answers us and sets us free! In Christ, we are forgiven!

All: **Hosanna! Amen!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

WL: Let us pray: Eternal God, whose word silences the shouts of the mighty: Quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may receive grace to show Christ's love in lives given to your service.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

ZECHARIAH 9:9-12

R: The First lesson for this Palm Sunday is from the ninth chapter of Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will take away the chariots from Ephraim

and the warhorses from Jerusalem,

and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope;

even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

R: Our Second Lesson is from Philipians, the second chapter.

In your relationships with one another,
have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

✝ HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 12:20-43

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

"Lord, who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

"He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts,
nor turn—and I would heal them."

Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS
LBW #170, vs. 1, 3, 5

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

WL: Let us boldly confess our faith, with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: As Jesus taught His disciples to pray, so we pray together:

All: **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.**

✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: Amen.

✠ AGNUS DEI

Repeat each short phrase the cantor sings

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN

TREE OF LIFE AND AWESOME MYSTERY

*CHOIR ALONE: Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,
in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist'ry,
still you rise with ev'ry morn,
still you rise with ev'ry morn.*

**ALL: Seed that dies to rise in glory,
may we see ourselves in you;
If we learn to live your story,
we may die to rise anew,
we may die to rise anew.**

**We remember truth once spoken,
love passed on through act and word;
ev'ry person lost and broken
wears the body of our Lord,
wears the body of our Lord.**

CHOIR ALONE: Adoramus te Christe . . .

**Gentle Jesus, Mighty Spirit,
come inflame our hearts anew;
We may all your joy inherit
if we bear the cross with you,
if we bear the cross with you.**

**Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.**

God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death;
Hold us close through each tomorrow,
love as near as ev'ry breath,
love as near as ev'ry breath.

✝ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

All: **Amen.**

✝ CHARGE & BLESSING *based on Psalm 121:5-8*

WL: Go out now in faith, trusting in God's promises. Remember how much God loves this world and so love the world in the name of Christ, that your testimony becomes the good news someone else has been waiting to receive.

May the Lord watch over you. May the Lord keep you from all harm and watch over your life. May the Lord watch over your coming and going now and forevermore.

All: **Amen.**

✝ SENDING SONG LEAD ME, LORD

**Lead me, Lord. I will follow. Lead me, Lord. I will go.
You have called me. I will answer. Lead me, Lord. I will go.**

✝ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

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Lead Me, Lord

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