

Sixth Sunday in Lent – Palm - Passion Sunday
March 31, 2024

Due to the weather forecast – we will gather inside – for the Palm Sunday parade.

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

Pastor: People of God, do not be afraid, for your Savior is coming,
All: riding on a donkey, daring to raise the branches of liberation.
Pastor: Shout your hosannas in the street and in the sanctuary.
All: Hosanna in the highest! Our Savior has come to set us free!
Pastor: Palm branches and praise mark this day with hope.
All: Hosanna, Son of David come and save us!

PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

Pastor: Hear now Mark's Gospel, chapter 11, which tells us how our Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem.
(Reading of Mark 11:1-11)

RAISE BRANCHES

BLESSING OF PALMS

Pastor: Let us seek God's blessing upon us and these branches.
All: Almighty God, on this day your Son Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way. Holy One, bless our branches that they may be for us signs of His victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our Lord, and follow him in The Way that leads to eternal life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PARADE PROCESSION INTO THE SANCTUARY

MOVE TO YOUR PEW

*The JAM choir and youth will lead the singing with clapping and tambourines.
Please JOIN in the CLAPPING and SINGING as you pick up the tune to the refrain below.*

Hosanna! *(CLAP! CLAP!)*
Hosanna! *(CLAP! CLAP!)*
Sing Hosanna to Jesus! *(CLAP! CLAP!)*
Hosanna! *(CLAP! CLAP!)*
Hosanna! *(CLAP! CLAP!)*
Sing Hosanna to Jesus! *(CLAP! CLAP!)*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: God, this is the day when everything changes, and we are pulled along: bodies dancing, tambourines ringing, hands clapping, and voices singing calling for you to save us. In the heart of the whirl, there is no warhorse for you, only the quiet steps of a colt. Sweep us up with exuberance and still us with quiet joy. Prepare us for what lies ahead and make our hearts ready to meet you again at the cross and the empty tomb. Amen.

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

HYMN *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* **Blue Hymnal, #192**

EPISTLE READING – Philippians 2:5-11

SERMON & PRAYER **Rev. Laura C. Baker**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.*

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: The laying down of palm branches in the street was an expression of hope in God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with a sacrifice of sung praise on our lips and a prayer of dedication.

DOXOLOGY

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise

Brightly

We bring the sac - ri - fice of praise _____ in - to the house of the Lord; _____

We bring the sac - ri - fice of praise _____ in - to the house of the Lord. And we

of - fer up to You _____ the sac - ri - fic - es of thanks - giv - ing, and we

of - fer up to You _____ the sac - ri - fic - es of joy.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: *God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Receive and bless our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and later pronounced, "Crucify him," we too, are fickle people who often deny Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Remembering the events of Jesus' last week helps us see ourselves for what we are: sinners in need of a savior, a savior—praise God—we have in Christ. In honesty and hope, let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: *Sustainer of the weary, we know how we sang for joy when Christ came into our lives, and how we have not followed him when he leads us on this journey. We have hidden our faces from the pain and suffering of our world. We have turned a deaf ear to the cries of the poor, the hungry, the oppressed. We trust in the slick promotions of the world, and not in your words that can transform our lives. Forgive us, Steadfast God, and shine your face upon us.*

Pastor: Help us to have the same mind as Christ.

All: *So we would know your promises,*

Pastor: help us to have the same heart as Christ.

All: *So we might serve your children,*

Pastor: help us to have the same Spirit as Christ,

All: *so we might go wherever you lead us.*

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

Let those who love the Lord say: His steadfast love endures forever.

All: *His steadfast love endures forever!*

Pastor: Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.

All: *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.

Pastor: In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!

All: *In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.*

ANTHEM

If God Himself Be For Us (Bach)

Chancel Choir

LITANY

Pastor: We welcomed the King of Glory and waved our branches high!

Congregation: **We shouted "HOSANNA!" and "BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!"**

Pastor: Like Jerusalem, we opened the gates of our hearts...

Congregation: **And our Savior entered in...**

Pastor: But the road has been long, and the crowds are now thin...

Congregation: **the dust has settled and only a few tired hosannas remain...**

Pastor: the palms now abandoned, lie withered and bruised on the road,

Congregation: **and our spirits are starting to feel uneasy in the deepening dark...**

SUNG RESPONSE

On the Road to Jerusalem (Martin)

Chancel Choir

Pastor: On the road to Jerusalem rides the Man of Sorrows,

Congregation: **"Save us King," the people cry.**

Pastor: What will we cry tomorrow?

Congregation: **What will we cry tomorrow?**

All people will sing through the following THREE times.

Slower

"Save us, King", the peo - ple cry.

Slowly

What will we cry to - mor - row?

The image shows musical notation for a sung response. It consists of four staves. The first two staves are for the first line of the response, with the tempo marking 'Slower'. The lyrics are: "Save us, King", the peo - ple cry. The next two staves are for the second line of the response, with the tempo marking 'Slowly'. The lyrics are: What will we cry to - mor - row? The notation includes notes, rests, and a fermata over the final note of each line.

GOSPEL READING	<i>Passion Narrative</i>	Mark 14:12-26
HYMN	<i>Go to Dark Gethsemane</i>	Blue Hymnal, #196
GOSPEL READING	<i>Passion Narrative continues...</i>	Mark 14:32-65
HYMN	<i>O Sacred Head, Now Wounded</i>	Blue Hymnal, #202
GOSPEL READING	<i>Passion Narrative continues...</i>	Mark 14:66-15:20
HYMN	<i>Ah! Holy Jesus</i>	Blue Hymnal, #210
GOSPEL READING	<i>Passion Narrative continues</i>	Mark 15:21-47

SILENCE OBSERVED

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God, whose arms were spread on the cross to embrace the whole world, help us this week to take up the cross and follow him.

All: *Amen.*

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Ride on! Ride on in Majesty!* Blue Hymnal, #191

All leave in complete silence.

We will meet again...

Holy Wednesday at 3 PM for anointing with oil & Maundy Thursday at 6 PM