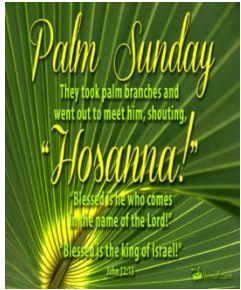


As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.

May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude – Welcome - Announcements

The story of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, tells us that after his celebrated arrival. He went into the Temple and looked around at everything.

As we gather here for worship today may it be with a sense that Jesus has walked in too and is looking around.

May our eyes be open to see Him, may our hearts be ready to be seen by Him, may our worship be worthy of His presence, and may we be transformed so that we see the world through His eyes. Amen.

A CALL TO WORSHIP FOR PALM SUNDAY

Open the gates and let him in!

As we love to give thanks to our Lord.

Clear a path and call on his name.

As we shout our praises to our Lord!

Wave your palms and welcome him.

As our home is forever your home, our Lord.

Lay you palms at his feet for each step he takes.

As we bless the holy land you walk on, our Lord.

Shout your wishes and pray for relief!

As we know you will gift our faith, our Lord.

Stand tall, with your heads held high.

As we breathe in the presence of grace, our Lord.

Raise your voices and sound your horns!

As we live to play, in your name, our Lord.

Bow your heads and clasp your hands.

As we will always exalt you, our Lord.

Give thanks to him.

For you are good, our Lord.

Love him.

You are the only one, our Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

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. Let those branches 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 his name we pray. Amen.

Praise Hymn #278 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

*Author: Jeanette Threlfall (1873)
Publication Date: 1989
Tune Information
Name: ELLACOMBE
Adapter and Harmonizer: W. H. Monk (1868)
Source: Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle, 1784*

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

**3. "Hosanna in the highest!"
that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice!**

We Hear God's Word

**Gospel Reading..... Mark 11:1-11
Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem 11 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say

this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " 4 They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5 some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6 They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. 7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9 Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

11 Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Faith Hymn #154 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (verses 1, 3, 5)

Author: Edward Perronet (1779)

Composer: Oliver Holden (1792)

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!

**Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.**

3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget

**the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet,**

and crown him Lord of all.

**Go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**5. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call;**

**extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod,
and crown him Lord of all.**

Meditation

Joys/Concerns of the People

Prayers of the People for Palm Sunday

Together we come to God, aware of our brokenness, aware of our call, aware of the world's need, and asking that we be strengthened for ministry.

God who comes in church, remind your people that you are larger than our experience, larger than this congregation, larger than Sunday morning. Free us from the constraints we try to place on our religious lives

God who comes in politics, Jesus made a very public statement by his ride into Jerusalem. In the face of the world's cynicism, in the face of our own mis-trust, keep us open to sharing your love.

God who comes in the unexpected, you surprise us by coming to us from outside, from people who are strangers, in times and places where we do not look for you. Keep us receptive to being amazed

God who comes in illness, you promise healing. Free us from demanding the shape which that healing takes. As we pray for those who need our prayers, especially [NAMES, AND] those we name before you, open us to your presence in all our circumstances.

God who comes in all, you are not limited to our expectations. Break through our usual ways of thinking, our familiar ways of seeing, our comfortable ways of being. Shatter our normal, and come to bring us life

We offer all these prayers, as well as the unspoken longings of our hearts, to you, liberating God, in the name of Jesus, your liberating Savior who taught us to pray:

Offering/Doxology/prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, as we bring our gifts and lay them at your altar, we remember the crowds in Jerusalem who laid their cloaks on the road, shouting "Hosanna" as Jesus passed. We know they were looking for a Messiah who was different from who you sent Jesus to be – not one of political power and military might, but one who came in compassion and mercy to heal, love, and save. Search our hearts that we might be confident that the Messiah for whom we long is the one you know we need – Jesus Christ, your anointed one, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Departing Hymn #277 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

Author: William H. Parker (1885)

Publication Date: 1989

**1. Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were
here: scenes by the wayside, tales of the
sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

**2. First let me hear how the children stood
round his knee, and I shall fancy his
blessing resting on me; words full of
kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.**

**3. Into the city I'd follow the children's
band, waving a branch of the palm tree
high in my hand; one of his heralds, yes, I
would sing loudest hosannas, "Jesus is
King!"**

Holy Week Benediction

And now, my friends go forth. To a week were transformation
Will meet you and guide you. Do not hide when they recognize you,
Do not doubt when you see Christ, Do not deny when you are confronted.
Do not stop until you are at the cross, and there you will see the light;
And the burdens of your heart will roll away. Until then, God be with you!
Amen

Postlude