

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

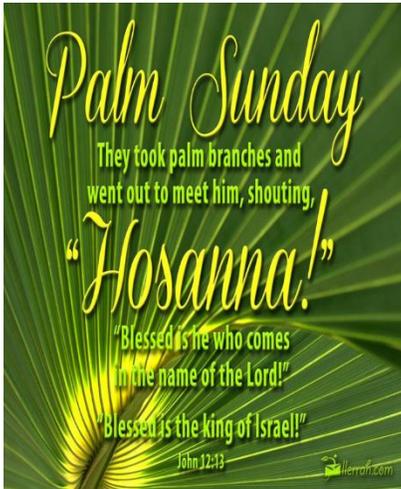
*May we together experience the presence of God*

+++++

***We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord***

**Prelude**

**Welcome**



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..... Luke 19:28-40**  
**New Revised Standard Version**

**Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

*28 After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.*

*29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" 32 So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They said, "The Lord needs it." 35 Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, 38 saying,*

*"Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!"*

*39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."  
40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."*

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

**Children's Message**

**Faith Hymn #2083 My Song Is Love Unknown**

*ext: Samuel Crossman*

*Music: John D. Edwards*

*Tune: RHOSYMEDRE, Meter: 66.66.888*

**1. My song is love unknown,  
my Savior's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
my God should take frail flesh and die?  
My God should take frail flesh and die?**

**2. God left the richest throne  
salvation to bestow;  
but Christ as flesh and bone  
the world refused to know.  
But, O my Friend, my Friend indeed,**

**who at my need did life expend;  
who at my need did life expend.**

**3. Sometimes they threw down palms  
and sweetest praises sang.  
Hosannas and glad psalms  
through streets and markets rang.  
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,  
for blood and death they thirst and cry;  
for blood and death they thirst and cry.**

**4. What has my Sovereign done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
Christ gave new strength to run,  
restored the gift of sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these  
themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise;  
themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise.**

**5. I sing my plain belief,  
one song my heart outpours:  
never was pain nor grief,  
never was love like yours.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend;  
I all my days could gladly spend.**

**\*Meditation\***

### **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:

### **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 where 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