

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.

Special Reading

“Know That I am There”

Poem written by Kathy Hawkins

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**

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR PALM SUNDAY

We confess that we are not so different
from those who welcomed Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday
yet later shouted 'Crucify him!' or remained silent in the face of injustice.
We have betrayed you too, Lord Jesus
by our sins both secret and known.
Yet you died for people like us,
and you rose on the third day that we might be redeemed.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, do not hold our sins against us.
Jesus Christ, our King of glory,
we have not been outspoken for you.
We have not called for your death,
but neither have we shouted of your greatness,
nor expressed delight in the salvation you have won for us.
Help us to see your glory, draw us closer to you
that we may become more faithful and more joyful
servants of the King.

Assurance of Pardon

(inspired by Psalm 31:14-15)

The Psalmist says:

But I trust in you, O Lord, I say 'You are my God.'

My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies

and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant;

save me in your unfailing love." In Christ, God hears; God answers; God sets us free.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image

and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,

made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
who emptied himself into human form
to guide us back to you.
Through his teaching and his actions,
he demonstrated that the time had come
when you would save your people.
When he processed into Jerusalem on a colt,
the people gathered and cried, "Hosanna! Save us!"
because he lived your salvific love in our midst.
And as the enthusiasm of "Hosanna!"
began to dim in the shadow of plots to crucify him,
he did not waver in the love and grace
he extended to all.

In one of his final gracious and loving acts,
on the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
the rejected stone who is the Cornerstone of our salvation,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.
Amen.

BREAKING AND SHARING

****Special Music by Kathy Hawkins****

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