

Service of the Word
Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday

WELCOME

PROCESSION AND BLESSING OF PALMS

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 12th Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

JOHN 12:12-16

Five days before the Passover the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God,

for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph

and was proclaimed messiah and king

by those who spread garments and branches along his way.
Bless these branches and those who carry them.
Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,
so that, joined to his death and resurrection,
we enter into life with you;
through the same Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

PROCESSION

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOUR (ELW 344)

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One.

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply.

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.

*Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635
Performance and arrangement © Copyright 2018 by Nathan Drake*

CHILDREN’S TIME

PRAYER OF THE DAY (CHILDREN’S VERSION)

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray....

O God of mercy and might, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who welcome Jesus as Lord; gather us around the cross of Christ; and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 50:4-9A

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

L Please join me in reading the Psalm responsively by verse, beginning and ending with the refrain.

PSALM 31:9-16

Refrain: Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are
consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a
dismay to my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot. R**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who
persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love." R**

Refrain: Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: MARK 15:1-15, 25-40

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³They shouted back, "Crucify him!" ¹⁴Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so

that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!” [

⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – YOU ARE MY ALL IN ALL

You are my strength
When I am weak
You are the treasure
That I seek
You are my all in all
Seeking You as a precious jew'l
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all

Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name

Taking my sin
My cross my shame
Rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all

Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name

*Words and music by Dennis Jernigan
© 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Admin. By Word, Inc.
Reprinted by permission under CCLI License #2880894*

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church the gift of humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to serve as Christ served. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection. Restore lost habitats and endangered species, create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth as spring settles in. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice, seek the well-being of all, and serve those in greatest need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

On the cross Jesus joined all who are forsaken. Be with those who are imprisoned or condemned, defend those who are falsely accused, and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Jesus, your kingdom drew near to us, and those who suffered in body and mind were healed. Give courage and peace to those who live with illness of any kind, especially Gord and all those who know whom we remember before you now.... Give the gift of healing that only you can give. Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

You are with us at life's beginning and at life's end. Give peace to those who are dying; give comfort to those who grieve; bless all those in our midst who care for others. Bless those who work in palliative care, those who work in funeral homes, and all those who support the grieving. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

LORD'S PRAYER

Even in different places and even in different times we are gathered into one by the Holy Spirit. So as one people, we pray as Jesus taught:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace.

Amen

SENDING HYMN – LORD, WHOSE LOVE IN HUMBLE SERVICE (ELW 712)

Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,

making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

Music: The Sacred Heart, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985

Text © Oxford University Press

Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A-729438. All rights reserved

Performed by the joint Bel Cantati Opera and Grace Lutheran Church virtual choir, Westminster, MD

DISMISSAL