

PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

The Plot Thickens

March 28, 2021



AS WE GATHER

Sunday, “the eighth day of the week,” is celebrated by Christians as the first day of the eternal life into which they were baptized. Today, the beginning of the great and Holy Week of Lent, we begin with the note of great joy as the crowds receive Jesus entering Jerusalem. This will be the last time He comes to the holy city. For we then follow Him to the judgment hall, the cross of suffering, and the fearful tomb of death. The penitential season of Lent concludes with the three holy days, the Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Let us follow our Lord and allow Him to take our sins upon Himself that we may receive His new life in the forgiveness of our sins and the joy of the resurrection.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Lord Jesus Christ, on the first Palm Sunday you entered the rebellious city where you were to die. You rode over the cloaks and under the branches, You rode through the shouts and past the praises, Receiving the praise that you deserved, but not confusing our praise in your presence for your purpose in coming. O Lord, you rode on. You rode towards the controversy and the cost, You rode towards the curses and the cross, Receiving the stripes you didn't deserve, to give us a reward that we couldn't earn. O Lord, you rode on. You rode through the tomb and the grave, You rode through our time and space, Ascending to a throne that will never decay, A priesthood that will never pass away, A life of love that will always remain, and hearing us even now as we pray. O Lord, you rode on. We remember the journey you have taken as we commit ourselves to walking in the same way. Give us the strength, hope, and joy we need as we follow. In your name we pray, Amen.

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE: Welcome, worshippers of the Living God! As the people spread their coats palm branches on the ground to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, so we welcome him into our lives this afternoon on this Psalm Sunday. Let us rejoice as our Servant King rides on to accomplish our salvation. For the five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's suffering and death. Today, together with the whole church, we begin this holy week by welcoming our Messiah and we hope that each person present will feel the overflow of love from our hearts. So, like the people of long ago, let us follow Him to the cross. Ride on, Ride on in Majesty! Friends of God, let us worship! Welcome!

PROCESSION OF PALMS

We gather outside to receive palms and process into the church.

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 12:12–19* (The triumphal entry)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace

People: **in the name of the Lord.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “When The Saint Go Marching” TFBF 180

1 Oh, when the saints go marching in, oh, when the saints go marching in, O Lord, I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in.

2 Oh, when the Lord in glory comes, oh, when the Lord in glory comes, O Lord, I want to be in that number when the Lord in glory comes.

3 Oh, when the new world is revealed, oh, when the new world is revealed, O Lord, I want to be in that number when the new world is revealed.

4 Oh, when they gather 'round the throne, oh, when they gather 'round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that number when they gather 'round the throne.

5 Oh, when they crown him King of kings, oh, when they crown him King of kings, O Lord, I want to be in that number when they crown him King of kings.

6 And on the hallelujah day, and on that hallelujah day, O Lord, I want to be in that number on that hallelujah day.

When all have arrived at their places, the people may raise their branches as the procession concludes with the following:

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna in the highest.**

✘ **WORD** ✘

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord God, on this day Your Son entered the Holy City, Jerusalem, to fulfill Your will by His death on the cross. Help us to follow Him through this week and all our days that we may be drawn closer to You by a faith full of the knowledge of the sacrifice and victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zechariah 9:9–12* (The coming King of Zion)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

GRADUAL *Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a*

Leader: Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. Therefore, He is

the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance. He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

EPISTLE *Philippians 2:5–11* (Every knee should bow at the name of Jesus.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Philippians 2:8b*

Leader: He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:1-11*

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

SERMON

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)

APOSTLE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness with which You bless Your whole creation. Above all, however, we give You thanks that You sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to be our true King, Your Suffering Servant whose death delivers us and all believers from sin, death, and hell. Give us Your grace that we be faithful in our walk and in our hope, love, and worship. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Inspire Your whole Church throughout the world to rightly hear and follow Jesus, our eternal King and Lord, in humble faith with thanksgiving. Give wisdom and grace to all pastors that they give themselves to a living and lively proclamation of Your Law and Gospel through which You work true, saving repentance and faith in many. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Give Your grace, forgiveness, wisdom, blessing, and guidance to all who bear the offices of government in our nation and throughout the world. Lead them to the faithful exercise of their authority for peace and justice, and for the defense and liberty of all people, especially the most vulnerable. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Give peace and patience, comfort and healing to all who suffer illness or adversity or who are in sorrow or need, [*especially . . .*]. Deliver all who endure persecution for faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Individual petitions may be added here.

Leader: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. [*Silence for remembrance.*] Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” TLH 162 in tune of TLH 200

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry; O Savior meek,
pursue Thy road with palms and scattered garments strowed.

2 Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die: O Christ, Thy triumphs
now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty! The angel armies of the sky look down with sad
and wond'ring eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty! Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh; the Father on
His sapphire throne expects His own anointed Son.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die; bow Thy meek head
to mortal pain, then take, O Christ, Thy power and reign.

Palm Sunday

They took palm branches and
went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

John 12:13

