

Liturgy
The Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday
Year B

GATHERING

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your King is coming to you;

**He is just and endowed with salvation,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

– Zechariah 9:9

*When they were approaching Jerusalem,
at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives,
He sent two of His disciples.*

He said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you,
and immediately as you enter it,
you will find there a colt that has never been ridden;
untie it and bring it.

If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’
just say this: ‘The Lord has need of it,’
and immediately he will send it here.”

*They went away and found a colt tied near a door,
outside in the street.*

*As they were untying it,
some of the bystanders said to them,
“What are you doing, untying the colt?”*

The disciples answered just as Jesus had commanded them.
And they allowed them to take it.

*Then they brought the colt to Jesus
and put their cloaks on it.*

*And He sat on it.
And many people spread their cloaks on the road,
and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields.*

Those who went ahead
and those who followed were shouting:

**“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!
Hosanna in the highest!”**

And Jesus went into Jerusalem, and into the temple.

– Mark 11:1-11a

*LECTIONARY for the sixth Sunday in
Lent, Year B:*

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11, John 12:12-16

The Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

*This Sunday brings us to the final
Sunday of our Lenten journey. In
some ways, Palm Sunday doesn't feel
like Lent, because the mood, at least
initially, is one of joyous celebration.
But we also remember that the same
crowd that hailed Jesus at the begin-
ning of the week with cries of
“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord!” is the crowd
that mocked, scorned, and rejected
Him at its end.*

*Some congregations focus solely on
the Liturgy of the Palms on this sixth
Sunday of Lent, and incorporate the
texts of the Liturgy of the Passion into
services later in Holy Week. Others
acknowledge the turn in the attitude of
the people within the sermon
(teaching) or elsewhere in the course
of the Palm Sunday service. This litur-
gy follows the latter course as prepa-
ration for the final week of Lent, dur-
ing which we walk with Christ
through the last week of His earthly
life and ministry—walking in His own
footsteps, praying that we may take on
His likeness as we are more and more
formed in His image, as we follow
Him in His journey to the foot of the
cross.*

*The Gathering reading can be done
outside the door of the church or
meeting place, or in the narthex or
other welcoming area, if you plan for
your congregation to process into the
worship space with palm branches. If
not, then this antiphonal reading can
be spoken as the opening of worship
in the sanctuary or worship space.
The opening lines, from Zechariah,*

PROCESSION INTO THE CHAPEL

We Will Glorify

We will glorify the King of kings,
We will glorify the Lamb;
We will glorify the Lord of lords,
Who is the great I Am.

Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty;
We will bow before His throne.
We will worship Him in righteousness,
We will worship Him alone.

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth;
He is Lord of all who live.
He is Lord above the universe,
All praise to Him we give.

Hosanna to the King of kings,
Hosanna to the Lamb;
Hosanna to the Lord of lords,
Who is the great I Am.

CCLI Song #19038 ©1982 New Spring. Twila Paris.

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good:
for His steadfast love endures forever.

**Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.**

This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

**I thank You that You have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes!

**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Hosanna, O LORD!

Prosper us, O LORD, in Your victory!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and He has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

**You are God, and we will give thanks to You;
You are our God, we will extol You.**

– from Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

are spoken by the pastor, priest or other lead reader, with the congregation reading the bold text. The people are divided into two groups for reading the Mark narrative, with the text in bold read by everyone.

This contemporary (now classic) song of joyful worship draws us into the shouts of praise heard in Jerusalem at Christ's triumphal entry. We adapted the fourth-verse lyric, singing "Hosanna" instead of the original "Hallelujah," to echo the shouts of the crowds as Christ entered into Jerusalem. If you do plan to process with palm or other branches, it is best to choose a song or hymn that is familiar, and that has a tempo and meter that makes it easy to sing and walk with the branches. An alternate choice might be Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (CCLI Song #27006) by Peter Scholtes, ©1966 F.E.L. Publications. Another Twila Paris song that fits well for this week is He Is Exalted (CCLI Song #17827. ©1985 Straightway Music | Mountain Spring Music)

The Psalm of the Liturgy of the Palms is set here as a reading for one lead reader and the whole congregation.

All Glory, Laud and Honor

All glory, laud and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and Blessed One.

The company of angels
Is praising Thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before Thee we present.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Hymn tune: ST. THEODULPH, (76 76 D), Melchior Teschner, 1615.
Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 820. Trans. John M. Neale, 1854.

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

All Glory, Laud and Honor (verse 3)

To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the praise we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King; Thou good and gracious King.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord:

God, who at various times and in various ways
spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,
whom He appointed heir of all things,
through whom also He made the world,
and who is the radiance of His glory
and the exact representation of His nature.

*When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
born a descendant of David according to the flesh;
born of a woman, born under the Law,
in the likeness of sinful flesh, to be an offering for our sin;
so that He might redeem us,
that we might receive adoption as His children.*

**God also highly exalted Him
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

— from Hebrews 1:1-3; Romans 1:3,8:3-4; Galatians 4:3-4, Philippians 2:9-11

This is one of the traditional hymns for Palm Sunday. We sing it in 6/8, rather than in 4/4, to heighten the sense of joy in our welcoming praise to the One who comes in the Name of the Lord.

*Ellen's setting of All Glory, Laud and Honor is available by request. You may write us at:
clerestorynotes@gmail.com*

You might want to sing this third verse of the Gathering hymn in its original 4/4 meter, or a bit slower than above, to reflect that the setting of Palm Sunday is not many days before Christ's passion.

The Profession of Faith weaves together texts that speak of the Person and Work of Christ, and of the eternal praise and worship of which He alone is worthy.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Righteous God of all time,
You have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.
We have joyfully praised Him with shouts of “Hosanna!”
Yet we confess that we do not always bow before Him,
nor follow Him with our whole hearts.

[Silence]

In your mercy, forgive us.
**Help us to lay at Your feet all that we have and all that we are,
trusting You to forgive and cleanse what is sinful,
to heal what is broken, and to receive us as Your own.**

[Silent confessions]

**Draw us near the foot of the cross, so that, dying and rising with Him,
we may walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your name.
Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
(repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the word of the Lord from Psalm 118.
This is God’s promise of pardon and love:

Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**Out of my distress I called upon the LORD;
I sought the LORD and He answered me,
and He delivered me from all my fears.**

**The LORD is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and declare the deeds of the LORD.**

Thanks be to God!

– from Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17

The prayer of confession is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (section “Christ the King”). An online edition of the Book of Common Worship is available: <http://bookoforder.info/Book-of-Common-Worship.pdf>

This setting of Agnus Dei is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also included in the collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. You may hear Agnus Dei in the Audio Media Studio.

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei>

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/agnus-dei-clip

The Assurance of Pardon comes from the psalm for today. Though these verses are not included in the lectionary selection, they wonderfully reflect the work of deliverance Christ has wrought.

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Jesus said, "If these people were to keep silent,
the stones would immediately cry out!"

**Lord, we lift our voices in praise to You! May our lives
and our offerings resound as worship and reflections of Your love.**

Holy

I will lift my voice, and I will sing,
I will sing holy, holy.
To my Lord and Savior, my God and King:
I will sing holy, holy

Chorus:

I will praise the Lamb of God
Who sits upon the throne.
I will worship Him,
And give the praise to Him alone.
He who was and is and is to come:
I will sing before His throne forever, forever.

All the angels sing, and they bow down,
And they sing holy, holy.
We, Your sons and daughters, we praise You now:
And we cry holy, holy.

Chorus

Holy, holy. Holy, holy . . .

Donnie McClurkin. ©2003 Seven Summits Music and Don Mac Music.

THE WORD

Mark 11:1-11
Psalm 118

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14: 1—15:47

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace

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 Him thanks and praise.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again!**

*Another song choice for this Offering
time is Holy, Holy:
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, God Al-
mighty. (repeat)
Who was and is, and is to come.
(repeat)
Lift up His name with the sound of
singing / Lift up His name in all the
earth. / Lift up your voice and give
Him glory / for He is worthy to be
praised.
(CCLI Song #1540719. ©1995
Thankyou Music. Nathan Fellingham)*

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heav'n.
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.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)

Fullness of Grace

Fullness of grace in man's human frailty,
This is the wonder of Jesus.
Laying aside His power and glory,
Humbly He entered our world.
Chose the path of meanest worth;
Scandal of a virgin birth.
Born in a stable, cold and rejected;
Here lies the hope of the world.

Fullness of grace, the love of the Father
Shown in the face of Jesus.
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity,
Walking the Calvary road.
Christ the holy innocent
Took our sin and punishment.
Fullness of God, despised and rejected;
Crushed for the sins of the world.

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for,
Promise of God in Jesus.
Through His obedience we are forgiven,
Op'ning the floodgates of heav'n.
All our hopes and dreams we bring,
Gladly as an offering.
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable:
God's gift in love to the world.

CCLI Song #4411752 ©2004 Thankyou Music.
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.

Eric Wyse's setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available at Score Exchange (<http://www.scoreexchange.com/scores/19379.html>)

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (verse 3)

“Hosanna in the highest!”
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heav’n, our King;
O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice!

Text: Jenette Threlfall, 1873. Tune: ST. THEODULPH, Melchior Teschner, 1615.

Benediction:

Now brothers and sisters,
we go forth into the world to live out our baptisms,
loving and serving the Lord.

**Just as we have carried these branches,
and in praise declared Jesus Messiah and King,
may we now follow Christ in the way of the cross.**

As we journey with Him in this week of remembrance and hope,
let us take on His likeness, for the honor of His holy name,
who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship... “We should not look on Palm Sunday simply as a day to recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is that, but it is more. It is our own entry into the most solemn yet the most glorious experience of spirituality. For Jesus, Palm Sunday was his gateway to the culminating events of his earthly life. As we enter that gate with him, our spiritual lives are being ordered into the most sacred moments of the history of the world and of our own experience with the meaning of human existence.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality Through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 116-117.)

Lectionary for next week: Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-18

Readings for each day of Holy Week can be found at The Revised Common Lectionary:
(<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>)

Copyright ©2018, 2021, 2024 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

URL: <https://www.clerestorynotes.com>

Our Sending hymn text is from another of the traditional Palm Sunday anthems, set to the same tune as the Gathering hymn. This one we sing in the original 4/4 meter.

Even on Palm Sunday, it is customary to refrain from including the usual closing of the benediction, “Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!” In a sense, we fast from this exuberant expression of praise, which makes it all the more meaningful and glorious when—next week!—we declare on Resurrection Sunday, “Christ is risen, Alleluia!”