



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Palm Sunday

5 April 2020

Everyone who lined the streets of Jerusalem that day so long ago had a different reason for waving those palms. Some were political activists; they'd heard Jesus had supernatural power, and they wanted Him to use it to free Israel from Roman rule. Others had loved ones who were sick or dying. They waved branches, hoping for physical healing. Some were onlookers merely looking for something to do, while others were genuine followers who wished Jesus would establish Himself as an earthly king. Jesus was the only one in the parade who knew why He was going to Jerusalem—to die. He had a mission, while everyone else had an agenda. —J.I. Packer


GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.


Gospel Invitation—1 Timothy 6:15-16

Jesus is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light. To Him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Introit—Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, Vs. 1



Lift up your heads, ye migh-ty gates; be - hold, the King of_ glor - y waits;



The King of kings is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of_ the world is here!

Text: George Weissel, 1642, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855; Music: TRURO, Thomas Williams, 1789.

Call to Worship—John 12:13; Zechariah 9:9-12

Pastor: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

All: Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!

Reader 1: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you.

Reader 2: He is righteous and bears salvation; He is humble and mounted on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

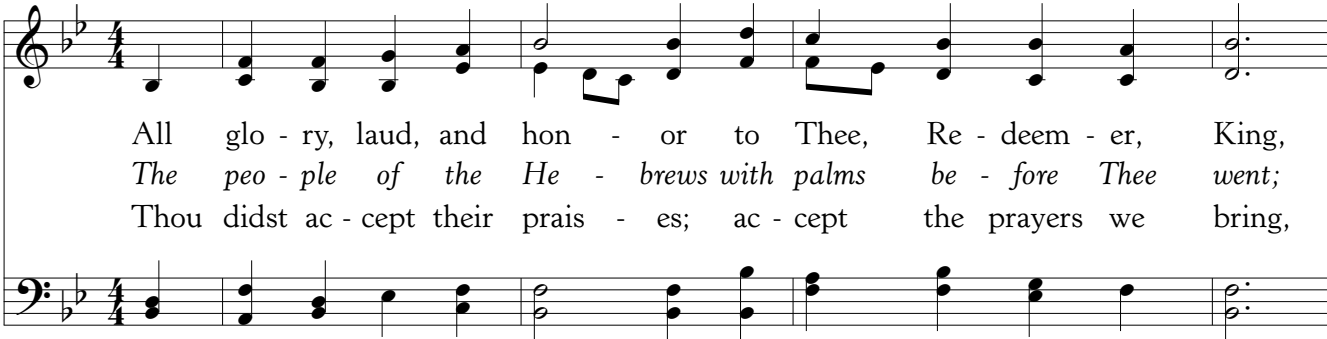
Reader 3: He shall speak peace to the nations; His rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Reader 4: As for you, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I will set you free. Return to the stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore you.


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

Pastor: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!


Hymn of Praise—All Glory, Laud, And Honor




All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to Thee, Re - deem - er, King,
The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore Thee went;
Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



To whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
Our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore Thee we pre - sent:
Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King!



Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
To Thee be - fore Thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to Thee, Re - deem - er, King,



Who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One!
To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
To whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 820, Tr. John Mason Neale, 1854;
Music: ST. THEODULPH, Melchoir Teschner, c. 1615.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.

Hymn of Praise—Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands



Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands, for our of - fens - es_ giv - en;
It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and death con - tend - ed;
So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the Lord in - vites us;



But now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from Heav-en:
The vic - tor - y re - mained with life: the reign of death was_ end - ed.
Christ is Him - self the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.



There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing God's prais - es thank - ful - ly
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns, an emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine to our hearts;



With songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Death's sting is lost for - ev - er! Al - le - lu - ia!
The night of sin is end - ed. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1524, Tr. Richard Massie 1858; Music: CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN, Medieval melody,
Arr. Johann Walther, 1524.

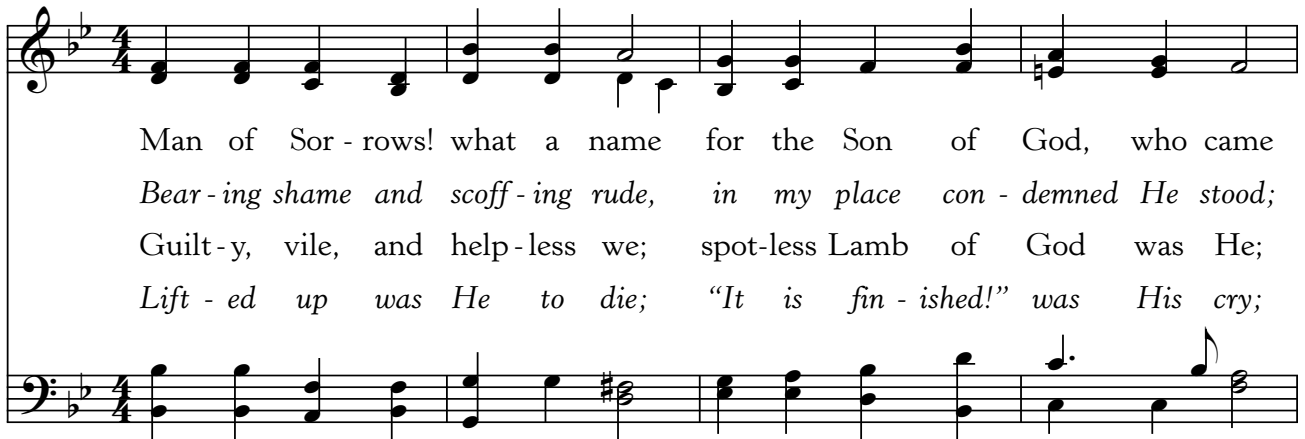
Scripture Reading—Mark 11:1-11

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before 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 He entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when He had looked around at everything, as it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

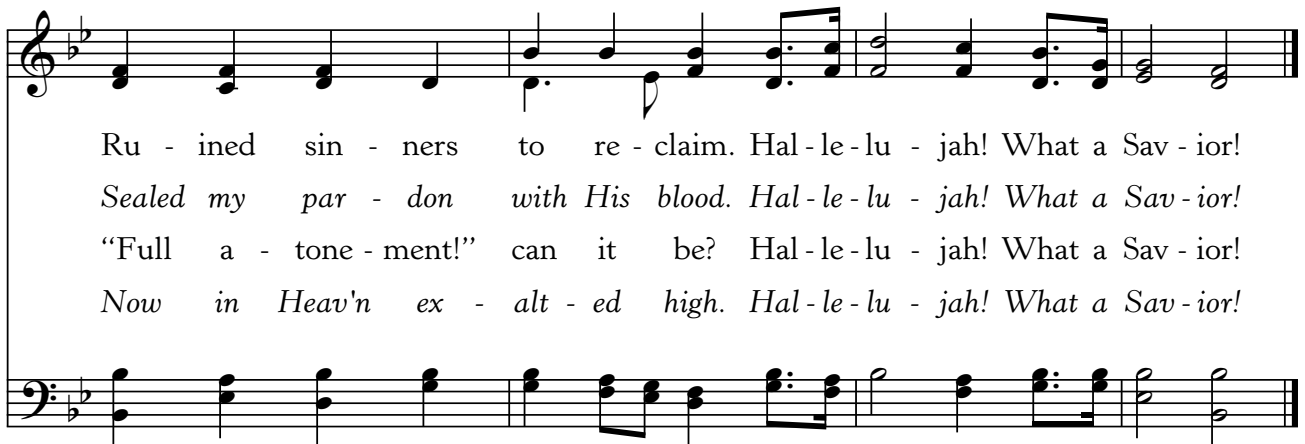
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise—Man Of Sorrows!



Man of Sor - rows! what a name for the Son of God, who came
Bear - ing shame and scoff - ing rude, in my place con - demned He stood;
Guilt - y, vile, and help - less we; spot - less Lamb of God was He;
Lift - ed up was He to die; "It is fin - ished!" was His cry;



Ru - ined sin - ners to re - claim. Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sav - ior!
Sealed my par - don with His blood. Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sav - ior!
"Full a - tone - ment!" can it be? Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sav - ior!
Now in Heav'n ex - alt - ed high. Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sav - ior!

Text and Music: Phillip P. Bliss, 1875.

Reading of the Word—Romans 10:9-17

⁹... If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. ¹³For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—How Sweet And Awful Is The Place, Vs. 5

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "Pit - y the na - tions, O our God, con - strain the Earth to come; Send Thy vic - to - rious Word a - broad, and bring the strang - ers home." The first system ends with a fermata over the final note of the vocal line. The second system ends with a double bar line.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: ST. COLUMBA, Ancient Irish Melody.

Sermon—*Beautiful Feet*

—Pastor, George Grant

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on Philippians 4:6-9

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We come confessing because in our present troubles and distresses, we are overcome by anxious thoughts and worldly concerns—as if the palms were never waved, as if the hosannas were never shouted, as if Jesus were never proclaimed by His finished work the King of kings and Lord of lords.

All: **We have not acknowledged Your Lordship in all things. We have failed to lay all before You.**

Pastor: In the place of rejoicing and thanksgiving, we grumble and complain. In the place of faith and hope, we doubt and despair.

All: **We have given our minds to things which are not true, or honorable, or just, or pure, or lovely, or commendable, or excellent. Forgive us for being consumed by things unworthy of praise.**

Pastor: Give us the peace that surpasses all understanding that our hearts may be defended against sin and temptation.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Lamb Of God

UNISON



O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —



O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —



O Lamb of — God, that takes a - way the sins of the world,

Slightly faster

WOMEN



Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy, Grant us Thy peace,

MEN



Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace.

Text: Traditional, based on John 1:29; Music: CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

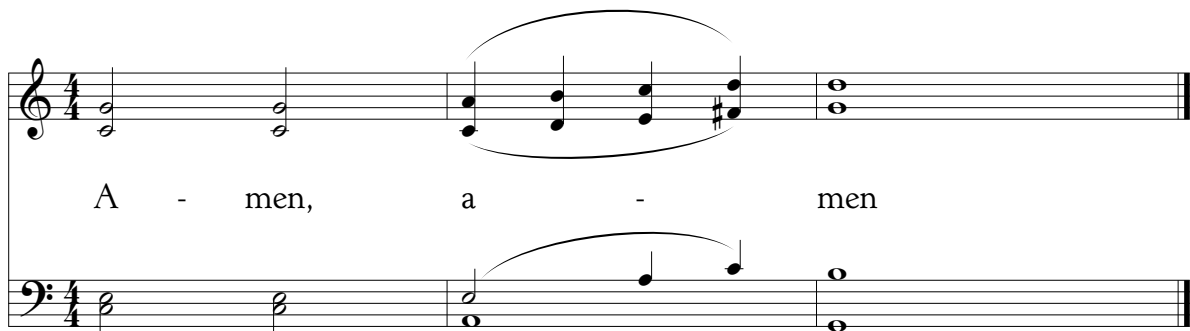
Assurance of Pardon—Jonah 4:2; Isaiah 55:10-11

You, O Lord, are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting of disaster. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall God's Word be that goes out from His mouth; it shall not return to Him empty, but it shall accomplish all that He purposes, and shall succeed in the thing for which He sent it.

Pastor: This is the promise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Fill our hearts and minds and mouths with sweet hosannas. Hosanna in the highest!

Sung Response—Amen



Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18th Century.

HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCCHARISTO*

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

UNISON



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. —

WOMEN

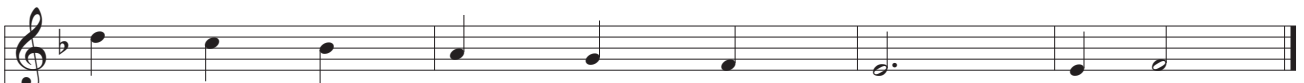


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

MEN



We praise You, we bless — You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise—Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown Him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on His throne.
Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
Crown Him the Lord of love, be - hold His hands and side,
Crown Him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time,

Hark! How the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mus - ic but its own.
From pole to pole, that wars may - cease, and all be prayer and praise.
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glor - i - fied.
Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing - spheres, in - eff - a - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierc - ed feet
No an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For Thou has died for me;

And hail Him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
Fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
But down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
Thy praise and glor - y shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benedictory Hosannas—from Revelation 7:9-12

Pastor: I looked, and behold, there was a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes. And they all had palm branches in their hands.

All: They cried out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Pastor: And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.

All: They said, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Sung Response—Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, Vs. 3

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in 3/2 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the rul - er is con - fessed" and "O hap - py hearts and hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!".

Text: George Weissel, 1642, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855;
Music: TRURO, Thomas Williams, 1789.

Announcements

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
The world and those who dwell therein,
For He has founded it upon the seas
And established it upon the rivers.*

*Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who does not lift up his soul to what is false
And does not swear deceitfully.
He will receive blessing from the Lord
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
Such is the generation of those who seek Him,
Who seek the face of the God of Jacob.*

*Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
That the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
The Lord, mighty in battle!
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
That the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
He is the King of glory!*

—Psalm 24

Worship Notes:

Like most of you, I am grieving the inability to worship together in person—even more acutely during this season leading up to Easter. Waving palms together on Palm Sunday, singing with the choir on Good Friday, and celebrating the Resurrection on Sunday morning with the room packed to standing-room only are some of the sweetest moments of the church year. Given this unusual situation we find ourselves in, I am especially thankful for the great hymns of the faith that will walk us through the events of Christ's passion. As you follow along in your home this morning, you'll find hymns like *Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates* and *All Glory, Laud And Honor*, which remind us of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The beloved *Man Of Sorrows! What A Name* tells us of His death upon the cross on Good Friday. Martin Luther's text *Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands* points to His victory over death, and *Crown Him With Many Crowns* celebrates Him as the Lamb seated on His throne in Heaven. Though our congregation is separated, take heart that the King that entered the city on a donkey to cries of "Hosanna" is the very same King that enters the portals of our hearts this morning. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Confess, Believe, Saved, Justified, Everyone, Preach, Sent

Keystone Verse: Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17)



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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.