



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Palm Sunday

2 April 2023

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—Psalm 130:7

Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

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

The musical score is written in 2/2 time and consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "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—from 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.

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

All: **Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

Congregational Hymn—Jesus, Shepherd Of Thy People



Je - sus, Shep - herd of Thy peo - ple, lead us through this des - ert land;
All Thy sheep shall come to Zi - on; with them Thou wilt nev - er part;
In Thy bos - om safe - ly lodg - ed, Thine shall rest from dan - ger free;



We are weak, and poor, and fee - ble, yet we trust Thy might - y hand;
Beasts of prey, nor roar - ing li - on, none shall pluck them from Thy heart;
They shall nev - er more be judg - ed, nor shall con - dem - na - tion see;



Great pro - tec - tor! By Thy power a - lone we stand.
All Thy cho - sen cost Thee wounds, and blood, and smart.
Bless - ed Je - sus, let us thus re - joice in Thee.

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.

Congregational Hymn—And Let This Feeble Body Fail



And let this fee - ble bod - y fail, — and let it faint and die;
In hope of that — im - mor - tal crown I now the cross sus - tain,
I suf - fer through my wear - y years till my dear Je - sus come,
I see a world of saints so bright who reap the pleas - ures there;
Give joy or grief, give ease or pain, take life or friends a - way,



My soul shall quit the mourn - ful vale, and soar to worlds on high;
And glad - ly wan - der up and down, and smile at toil and pain;
To wipe a - way His ser - vant's tears, and take this pil - grim home;
They all are robed in spot - less white, and con - qu'ring palms they bear.
But let me find them all a - gain — in that e - ter - nal day.



And I'll sing hal - le - lu - jah, and you'll sing hal - le - lu - jah, —



And we'll all sing hal - le - lu - jah, when we ar - rive at home.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1759, alt. 2023; Music: HALLELUJAH, William Walker, 1835,
arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2023.

Scripture Reading—Luke 19:29-30; 35-42

When [Jesus] drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here... And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as He rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As He was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of His disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace!”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—All Glory, Laud, And Honor

The image shows a musical score for a congregational hymn. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

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 - ra - el, 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. J. M. Neale, 1854;
Music: ST. THEODULPH, Melchoir Teschner, c. 1615.

Reading of the Word—Psalm 118:14-20

¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. ¹⁵Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, ¹⁶the right hand of the Lord exalts, the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!” ¹⁷I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. ¹⁸The Lord has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death. ¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. ²⁰This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Sing Hosanna

WOMEN

MEN
Sing Ho - san - na to the Lord. Sing Ho - san - na to the Lord. Sing Ho - san - na to the Lord.

WOMEN
san - - - na. Sing Ho - san - na. Sing Ho - san - na to the Lord.

CCLI #2844402 © 1974 New Song Creations; Text and Music: Linda Stassen, 1974.

Sermon—*The Gates of Righteousness*

—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 Luke 18:13, Psalm 51:1, Romans 8:15

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Like the tax collector we stand at a distance crying:

All: “God, have mercy on us sinners.”

Pastor: And, like the Psalmist we cry:

All: “Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions.”

Pastor: Lord, having received the Spirit of sonship we cry:

All: “Abba! Father!”

(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; Luke 18:27

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: What is impossible with man is possible with God.

Sung Response—Twofold Amen

A - men, a - men

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

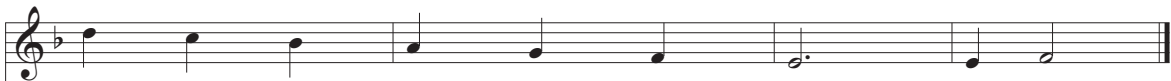


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

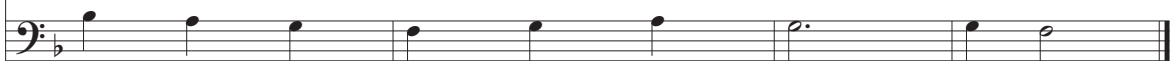
MEN



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—At The Name Of Jesus



At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow, Ev - 'ry tongue con - fess Him
Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name From the lips of sin - ners
In your hearts en - throne Him; there let Him sub - due All that is not ho - ly,
Broth - ers, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain With His Fath - er's glo - ry,



King of glo - ry now; 'Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call Him Lord,
un - to whom He came, Faith - ful - ly He bore it spot - less to the last,
all that is not true; Crown Him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
with His ang - el train; For all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on His brow,



Who from the beg - in - ning was the might - y Word.
Brought it back vic - to - rious when from death He passed.
Let His will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
And our hearts conf - ess Him King of glo - ry now.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1870; Music: KING'S WESTON, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925.

Congregational Hymn—We Will Glorify



We will glo - ri - fy the King of kings, we will glo - ri - fy the Lamb;
Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in Maj - es - ty, we will bow be - fore His throne;
He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth, He is Lord of all who live;
Hal - le - lu - jah to the King of kings, Hal - le - lu - jah to the Lamb;
Ho - san - na to the King of kings, Ho - san - na to the Lamb;



We will glo - ri - fy the Lord of lords, Who is the great I Am.
We will wor - ship Him in right - eous - ness, we will wor - ship Him a - lone.
He is Lord a - bove the u - ni - verse, all praise to Him we give.
Hal - le - lu - jah to the Lord of lords, Who is the great I Am.
Ho - san - na to the Lord of lords, Who is the great I Am.

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.*

Congregational Hymn—Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown Him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on His throne.
Crown Him the Lord of life, tri - um - phant o'er the grave,
Crown Him the Lord of love, be - hold His hands and side,
Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
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.
Who rose vic - tor - ious from the___ strife for those He came to save.
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glor - i - fied.
From pole to pole, that wars may___ cease, and all be prayer and praise.
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 glor - ies now we sing, who died and reigns on high;
No an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierc - èd feet
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.
He died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
But down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
Fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
Thy praise and glor - y shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1852; Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

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. 6

So come, my Sov - 'reign, en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin!

Thy Ho - ly Spir - it, guide us_ on, un - til the glor - ious crown be won.

The musical score is written in 2/2 time. The first system consists of a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are placed between the staves.

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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

I always look forward to Palm Sunday every year. The sight of the church decked out in greenery puts me in the mood for celebration, thinking of springtime and the promise of Easter just a week away. But given the events that took place here in Middle Tennessee this past week, I know I'm picking up my palm branch much more somberly than in other years. Sin, evil, and death have scarred our community, preying on the vulnerable and the innocent. This is why Jesus had to come. After entering Jerusalem to loud Hosannas, being betrayed, hung on the cross, and laid in a tomb, He passed through death victorious, defeating the final enemy of all. This is why we "Crown Him the Lord of life, triumphant o'er the grave." This is why we can sing "Hallelujah" in the midst of grief, pain, and loss. So take up your palms—symbol of a death-conquering hero—and give glory to our Redeemer King, "To whom the lips of children made sweet Hosannas ring." —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Songs, Hand, Exalts, Deeds, Gates

Keystone Verse: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. (Psalm 118:20)



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Elders

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Mike Misericocchi (594-3880)

Matt Morrison (482-5107)

Jason Parolini (497-3337)

John Scherrer (on sabbatical)

Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)

Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)

Jimmy Allen (on sabbatical)

Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)

Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)

Ben Crist (509-3040)

Chris Ragsdale (619-988-1876)

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