

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Hosanna! Hosanna is our sacrifice of praise! O God, on that first Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into the city where he soon would die. Just as his disciples and the crowds blessed his entry, spreading garments and branches, so we've come to lay at your feet our gifts of money, time, and talent - symbols of all we have and all we are. Through our offering and the gift of our very selves, we answer your call, to boldly proclaim, that you are our King of Glory! Amen.

HYMN

Ride on! Ride on in Majesty!

Hymnal, #133

BENEDICTION

Pastor: We welcomed the King of Glory and waved our branches high!
Congregation: **We shouted "HOSANNA!" and "BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!"**
Pastor: Like Jerusalem, we opened the gates of our hearts...
Congregation: **And our Savior entered in...**
Pastor: But the road has been long and the crowds are now thin...
Congregation: **the dust has settled and only a few tired hosannas remain...**
Pastor: the palms now abandoned, lie withered and bruised on the road,
Congregation: **and our spirits are starting to feel uneasy in the deepening dark...**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

On the Road to Jerusalem (Martin)

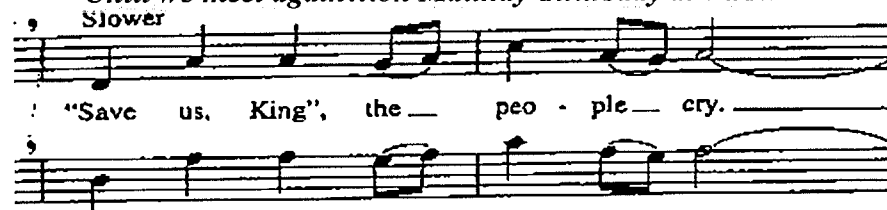
Chancel Choir

Pastor: On the road to Jerusalem rides the Man of Sorrows,
Congregation: "Save us King," the people cry.
Pastor: What will we cry tomorrow?
Congregation: What will we cry tomorrow?

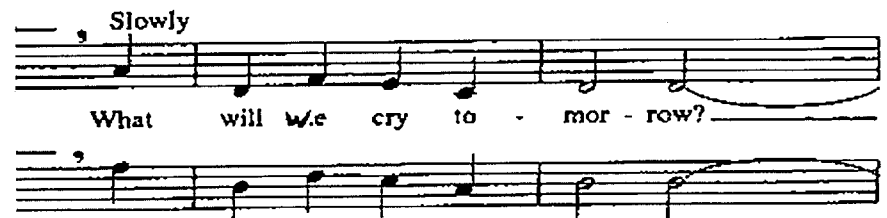
All people will sing through the following THREE times, then exit in SILENCE.

Until we meet again...on Maundy Thursday at 7 PM

Slower



Slowly



April 2, 2023
Sixth Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION AND BLESSING OF PALMS

Pastor: Hosanna! Blessed is Jesus who comes in God's name! We stand at the gates of Jerusalem and raise our branches high. We are about to get caught up in the excitement of a parade. Jesus sits astride a donkey, a beast of burden bearing a most precious gift. Let joy fill our hearts as we shout our Hosannas! Raise your branches and greenery high; let us seek God's blessing on this holy day!

RAISE BRANCHES

All: Holy One, bless these branches and all who bear them. Help us to open the gates of our lives and to lift up our voices, proclaiming to all that the King of Glory has come and is coming again! Amen.

PARADE PROCESSION

The King of Glory Comes



(Repeat as you process around the sanctuary ONCE and then, move to your seat)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The King is coming! The King of Glory is riding into Jerusalem!
Congregation: **He is riding a beast of burden.
He is seated on a donkey's back.**
Pastor: This King of Glory may not look much like royalty.
Yet, the crowds cheer and wave their palm branches.

Congregation: All creation SHOUTS PRAISES to the King of Kings!
Pastor: Hosanna!
Congregation: HOSANNA!
Pastor: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Congregation: BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

HYMN *Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!* Hymnal, #136

LITANY OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Today we *shout* our HOSANNAS and cheer you on, Jesus, as our champion and hail you as our hero.

All: *Forgive us tomorrow, Jesus, when on Monday, our enthusiasm wanes.*

Pastor: Today we will entrust you, Jesus, to rescue us from our distressing circumstances and heartbreak.

All: *Forgive us on Tuesday, Jesus, when we decide we can take care of ourselves.*

Pastor: Today, Jesus, we will make you the centerpiece of our very existence.

All: *Forgive us on Wednesday, Jesus, when we forget to even remember or think of you.*

Pastor: Today we shall call out to you LOUDLY by name: JESUS!

All: *Forgive us on Thursday, Jesus, when we pretend that we've never met you.*

Pastor: Today we will stare at you Jesus, with the star struck eyes of fans and groupies.

All: *Forgive us on Friday, Jesus, when we avert our eyes from the cross because it's too painful to witness suffering.*

Pastor: Today, Jesus, we proclaim unbridled hopefulness in the future you have in store for us.

All: *Forgive us on Saturday, Jesus, when we believe the lie that all is lost.*

Pastor: The Good News today, Jesus, is that we are certain of the earthly ways you will redeem us...

All: *And, on Sunday, Jesus, you will restore us when we are startled and awed again by your rising from the dead! Blessed are you, Jesus, the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna! HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!*

PRAISE HYMN *The Palms/Palm Branches* (Anonymous) Chancel Choir

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

EPISTLE READING – Philippians 2:5-11

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 21:1-11

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Baker

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

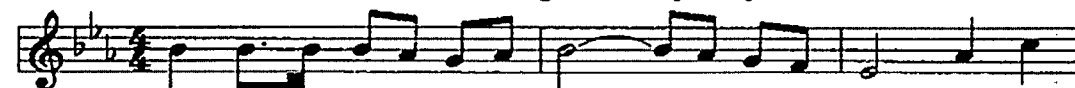
All: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the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

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Friends, peace and reconciliation become possible when folks from all walks of life come together and stand with the "One who comes in the name of the Lord." Let us bring our gifts as we brought our palms, full of praise. Let us bring ourselves, blessed and forgiven, knowing that God will joyfully accept both, us and our offerings. Let us dedicate all we are and all we give with praise and prayer.

DOXOLOGY

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise



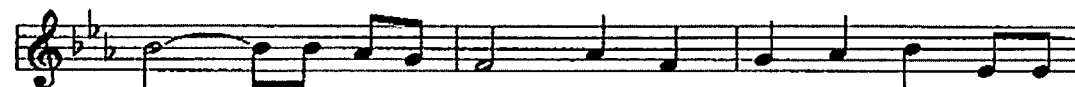
We bring the sac-ri-fice of praise in-to the house of the



Lord. We bring the sac-ri-fice of praise in-to the



house of the Lord. And we of-fer up to



you the sac-ri-fic-es of thanks-giv-ing; and we



of-fer up to you the sac-ri-fic-es of joy.