

March 28, 2021  
Palm Sunday  
Surprising Hope in the Wilderness<sup>1</sup>

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## **GREETING**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **BLESSING OF PALMS**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All:** *And also, with you.*

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

**All:** *It is right to give God our thanks and praise!*

Pastor: Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, it is indeed right to give you thanks and praise for your mighty acts of love witnessed throughout time, but most especially for your amazing act of love, by which you have redeemed and saved us through Jesus Christ. Our faithful ancestors on that first Palm Sunday parade over 2000 years ago hailed Jesus as the Messiah and the King of Kings and with branches and greenery in their hands, they cried out, “Hosanna in the highest!” In the book of Revelation, we read these words, “I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb of God.’” We pray, O God, for you to bless our branches and greenery and make them holy. May we also, carry your message of good news into the streets, our places of employment, marketplaces, homes, and churches. May our words be just the beginning of our proclamation that you are the Lamb of God, who lived, died, and was resurrected. You are the Savior of the World. Bless us, that our deeds and actions, as well as our words, will shine forth your love and invite others to join the of ever-flowing throng of believers following Jesus to eternal life.

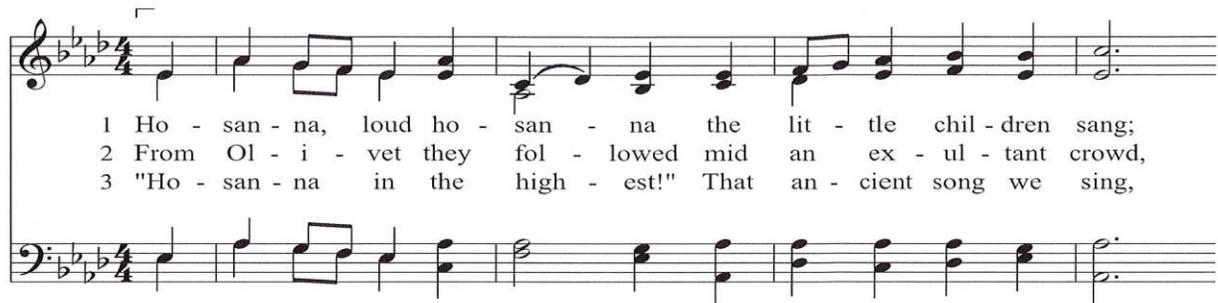
**All:** *Amen.*

## **PALM SUNDAY PARADE**

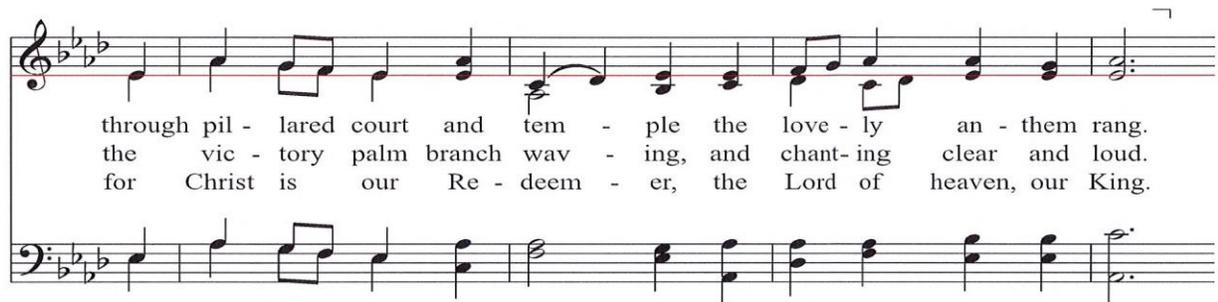
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<sup>1</sup> Much of the worship liturgy for this year’s Lenten season will be adapted from a hard copy resource called “Worship in the Wilderness” by Sara and Sam Hargreaves/Music and Worship Foundation 2018. This is from Pastor Laura’s personal worship material library.

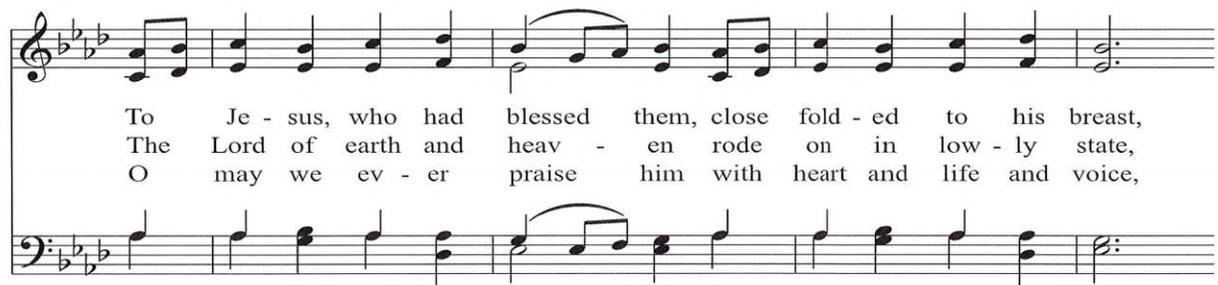
## HYMN

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*


1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,  
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.  
 the vic - tory palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.  
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven, our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,  
 The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,  
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.  
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

Text: Jennette Threlfall, 1873  
 Tune: *Gesangbuch*, Wittenberg, 1784



76 76 D  
 ELLACOMBE  
[www.hymnary.org/text/hosanna\\_loud\\_hosanna\\_the\\_little\\_children](http://www.hymnary.org/text/hosanna_loud_hosanna_the_little_children)

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### LITANY OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Today we will 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 pitiful circumstances.

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: This is Good News. Today, Jesus, we are certain of the earthly ways you will redeem us.

*All: 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!*

## **HEROES OF FAITH ACTIVITY (Based on Hebrews 11)**

### **HEBREW READING – Isaiah 35:1-10 (NIV)**

The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus,<sup>2</sup> it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy!  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;  
<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts,  
“Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

<sup>8</sup> And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.

<sup>9</sup> No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,

<sup>10</sup> and those the LORD has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

### **EPISTLE READING – Hebrews 11:32-40 (NIV)**

<sup>32</sup>And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell you about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated- <sup>38</sup>the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup>These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

This is the Word of the Lord. Let all the people say, “Thanks be to God.”

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING – Matthew 21:1-11 (NIV)**

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup>“Say to Daughter Zion,  
‘See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”  
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”  
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup>The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

This is the Good News of Christ, let all the people say, “Praise be to Christ.”

**OFFERING INVITATION**

Liturgist: The amazing gift of Jesus, who fully embodied God's love, prompts us to make a grateful response. Christ's love flowed like a fountain for those he met, not only people like him, but women, tax collectors, children, lepers, foreigners, and strangers. As Christ's followers, through our offerings today, we share His love as we support the ministries of this congregation, our outreach ministries, and the larger life of the Christian Church with our Palm Sunday offerings. Please join me in dedicating our tithes and offerings with a prayer...

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*All: 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 – symbols of all we have and all we are. May this offering be our non-verbal "Hosanna," as we bless your beloved Son, the One who comes in the name of the Lord who taught us to pray, saying: 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***Crown Him with Many Crowns*

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**BENEDICTION** (Based on Matthew 16:24-25)

Pastor: "Then Jesus told his disciples,  
 'If any want to become my followers,  
 let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.  
 For those who want to save their life will lose it,  
 and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'"

*All: Our Lord is on a journey.  
 May we have the grace to follow this Christ,  
 and to give to him our very lives.  
 For in giving away our lives, we find them,  
 and in dying we live.  
 Amen.*

**POSTLUDE**

# Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown him with ma - ny crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.  
 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

Hark! how the heaven - ly an - them\_ drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the\_ strife for those he came to save;  
 rich wounds, yet vi - si - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied;  
 cre - a - tor of the rol - ling\_ spheres, in - ef - fa - bly su - blime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 his glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high,  
 no an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 All hail, Re - dee - mer, hail! for thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 but down - ward bends their bur - ning eye at my - ste - ries so bright.  
 thy praise shall ne - ver, ne - ver fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and  
 Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)  
 Tune: George J. Elvey (1816-1893)



SMD  
 DIADEMATA  
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