

# PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

- L: We gather together,
- C: Waving palms of joy,
- L: Waving branches of peace,
- C: Eager to see Jesus, anxious for his healing touch, hoping to receive a blessing.
- L: We gather together,
- C: Waving palms of joy,
- L: Waving, branches of praise,
- C: Longing to know abiding peace in the midst of pressing worry and hurry, longing to be accepted for who we are instead of being judged for not being or doing enough.
- L: We gather together,
- C: Waving palms of joy,
- L: Waving branches of peace,
- C: Hoping we are ready to walk with Jesus through the night of anguish, the morning of accusations, the noon of despair, the hours of darkness.
- L: We gather together,
- C: Waving palms of joy,
- L: Waving branches of prayer,
- **C: Walking toward Easter.**
- L: O God, as we recall the entrance of our Savior into Jerusalem, help us to become so involved in reflecting upon the event, that we find ways of welcoming him into our lives even now. Do not let us be satisfied with watching from the sidelines, but persuade us to become participants. May our words, our actions, and our praises be sincere. In Jesus' name,
- C: Amen.

## THE PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

<sup>1</sup>When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup>this took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup>"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." <sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" <sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

L: Let us pray...

We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he was acclaimed Son of David and King of Kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path. We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may always hail Jesus as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C: Amen.

L: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

# C: Hosanna to the son of David!

#### PRAISE SONGS: Glorify the Lord With Me, Glorify Thy Name, Majesty (music at end of bulletin)

# **PASSION PRAYER:**

Hold us close, loving God, for in this week we see our own shadows, struggle with our own questions and doubts, feel our own betrayals, and know our own fears of suffering and pain. Hold us close so that we may find your grace stronger than our fright. Hold us tight so that we may look in our hearts and find your forgiveness. Walk with us from death to life and from denial to affirmation. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

## PALM SUNDAY CONFESSION:

L: The streets were crowded.

- **C: A parade mood filled the air.**
- L: Yet the shouts were from deep in the heart.
- C: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from lukewarm faith.

#### C: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from callous indifference.

#### C: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from skinny hopes and petty dreams.

## C: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from unquenchable greed.

## C: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from lazy habits and weak commitments.

## C: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from mental gymnastics and atrophied hearts.

## C: Hosanna. Save us.

L: We cry from the heart, from our soul.

## C: Hosanna. Save us. Save us now.

# **CONFESSION PRAYER:**

L: God, gracious and forbearing: We remember with sorrow how people hailed and welcomed your Son on the day we have come to call Palm Sunday, and how so many of the same people were there again, just a few days later, shouting "Crucify him!" We confess that we feel a guilty, uneasy kinship with these people. We, too, lack solid, well-thought-out principles against which to test the latest fads or siren calls. We, too, switch our votes in whatever direction self-interest seems to dictate, in order to stay popular or safe.

Remind us, O God, of the courage of Jesus, who set his face steadfastly toward Jerusalem, even though he knew the fate that awaited him there. For his sake, grant us renewal of your offer of mercy, unearned and undated. In his name we pray.

# C: Amen.

# CONFESSION RESPONSE: Forgiven (music at end of bulletin)

# APOSTLE'S CREED:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### THE FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 32:36-39

<sup>36</sup>Indeed the LORD will vindicate his people, have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone, neither bond nor free remaining. <sup>37</sup>Then he will say: Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge, <sup>38</sup>who ate the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their libations? Let them rise up and help you, let them be your protection! <sup>39</sup>See now that I, even I, am he; there is no god besides me. I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and no one can deliver from my hand.

#### **PSALM READING:**

#### Psalm 31:9-16

- L: Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.
- C: For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.
- L: I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.
- C: I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.
- L: For I hear the whispering of many-- terror all around!-- as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

#### C: But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

L: My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

## THE SECOND LESSON: Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

# THE PASSION SUNDAY GOSPEL:

SONG: The Servant King (sung between readings – music at end of bulletin)

Luke 22:54-62 and Reflection

C: Sing - The Servant King, verse 1

Matthew 27:20-23 and Reflection C: Sing - *The Servant King, verse 2*  Mark 15:16-20 and Reflection

C: Sing - The Servant King, verse 3

#### Matthew 27:24-26 and Reflection

C: Sing – The Servant King, verse 4

## Isaiah 53:3-6

#### MESSAGE RESPONSE: Weeping Over Jerusalem (music at end of bulletin)

## SOLO: When You Prayed Beneath the Trees - Soloist, Natalie Granger

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

L: Let us now join together in prayer. Gracious and loving God, you promised to send your Son as king, triumphant and victorious. We praise you for your faithfulness, and join our voices with those who acclaimed him with the words,

# C: "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

L: You sent your son, not to exalt himself but to humble himself. Grant us the grace to follow his example, to humble ourselves before you, and to be obedient to your will. Lord in your mercy,

## C: Hear our prayer.

L: Your son faced death on our behalf alone, deserted by his followers. Grant us the assurance that by his death, we need not face death alone. At our last hour, give us the comfort of your presence and the assurance of life in his presence forever. Lord in your mercy,

## C: Hear our prayer.

L: Your son gave his life as a ransom for all. Grant us the will to proclaim his death and resurrection throughout the world. Bless all teachers, missionaries, pastors and worship leaders, and all others who devote themselves to the spread of your kingdom. Lord in your mercy,

# C: Hear our prayer.

L: Your son cared for the sick and needy. Grant us the opportunities to care for those in need around us. Help us to be generous in sharing our time, abilities, and treasures. Lord in your mercy,

## C: Hear our prayer.

L: Hear us now as we pray for those with special needs. Especially do we ask your comfort and presence with ... and with those who we name in our hearts before you. Provide for their needs according to your gracious will. Lord in your mercy,

# C: Hear our prayer.

L: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

# C: Amen.

#### THE SENDING OUT:

L: May you be haunted by Jesus' story day and night, So that you may never forget the depth of his love for you. Now live lives worthy of the royal blood That has redeemed them for eternal life, In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### C: Amen!

#### THE SENDING SONG: Jesus is My Lord (music at end of bulletin)

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