



Passion Sunday

With the Procession of Palms

The service of Passion Sunday, beginning with the procession with palms, reflects the contrasting attitudes toward Jesus that were on display during the days leading up to His crucifixion. "Palm Sunday" is named after the palms which were spread before Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. The acclamation of the people, "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," clearly reveal that they hailed Jesus as the messianic king. Yet only days later, our Lord would hear the cry "Crucify!" This contrast is reflected on this day as the joy of His triumphal entry into Jerusalem gives way to the somber remembrance of His passion. The extended reading from the Passion narrative sets before the people of God all that our Lord did on our behalf. Thus is the Church prepared to enter Holy Week—the most important week of the church year.

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

The congregation stands and faces the entrance to the nave.

GREETING

P *The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

C **Amen.**

P *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

C **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

COLLECT

P *Let us pray....Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts, and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

HOLY GOSPEL

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.*

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

P *Let us go forth in peace*

C **In the name of the Lord.**

P *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

C **Hosanna in the highest.**

(the Service continues with the first hymn)

INTROIT

Psalm 24:7-10; Antiphon: Psalm 118:26

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

*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!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C *♪[Amen]♪*

GRADUAL

Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a

*[Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood,
thus securing an eternal redemption.*

*Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant,
so that those who are called
may receive the promised eternal inheritance,*

*He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.*

VERSE

*He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.*

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C **hear our prayer.**

Next Week's Readings from God's Word:

April 9 The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Day:

Acts 10:34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6; Psalm 16; Colossians 3:1–4; Matthew 28:1–10

John 12:12-19 (ESV)

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Isaiah 50:4-9 (ESV)

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. ⁶ I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. ⁷ But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I

have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

⁸ He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. ⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 19:29-48 (ESV)

²⁹ When [Jesus] drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ 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. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the

colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ And they said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ 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, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "Would that you, even you, had known

on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

⁴⁵ And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, ⁴⁶ saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

⁴⁷ And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, ⁴⁸ but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his word.

PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

John 12:12–19

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Philippians 2:5–11

Matthew 26:1—27:66 or Matthew 27:11–66 or John 12:20–43

Now Is the Hour When the Son of Man Is Glorified

"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming." He comes in gentle humility, *"sitting on a donkey's colt,"* yet also as the King of Israel *"in the name of the Lord"* (John 12:13, 15). His royal glory is faithful obedience and self-sacrificing service *"to the point of death, even death on a cross"* (Phil. 2:8). The Love of God is manifested in the Cross and Passion of His Son for the salvation of sinners. Since He has borne our sins and suffered our death, *"God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name"* (Phil. 2:9), and He exalts us in His Resurrection. Our Lord did not hide His face *"from disgrace and spitting"* (Is. 50:6), but He trusted His God and Father, who raised Him from death and the grave and exalted Him to His right hand. This same King Jesus now comes to us in gentle humility in His Supper, feeds us with His Body, and cleanses and covers us with His Blood, so that *"after His Resurrection"* we also shall rise and enter the holy city (Matt. 27:52–53).