



PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

March 24, 2024
Step by Step

As We Gather

Today's processional Gospel looks at the first day of Holy Week, and the Passion carries us on to Jesus' tomb. Throughout the entire week, and since His transfiguration, our Lord has moved toward the cross step by step. Despite opposition from crowds and His circle of friends, He has been determined to love us to death so that He might open heaven to us by the grace of God. Zechariah had written about the procession centuries earlier, and Paul proclaims that God the Father has exalted Jesus for His steadfast commitment to our salvation. But this is no mere history! We also are called to follow, to live through each day, step by step, faithful under various circumstances yet confident of mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Greeting

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** Hosanna to the Son of David.

Prayer

- P** Let us pray. Help us, Lord our God, so that it may be with joy that we begin our contemplation of all the mighty things You have done to give us eternal life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 12:12-19

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 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!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

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

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. 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. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Opening Sentences

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Prayer

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, heavenly Father. Today we especially thank You for the love You showed as Your Son redeemed us. Step by step our Savior followed Your will so that by His glorious death He would redeem us and draw us to Himself. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, those who greeted Him cut palm branches to lay before Him.
- C** **We ask that You bless these palms and all who bear them this day. Grant that we may always hail Him as our Lord and King;**
- P** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** **Hosanna in the highest.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Today is the beginning of Holy Week. During it we shall recall how our Savior gave His life so that our sins may all be forgiven, and heaven opened to us.
- C** **Even during worship, our minds wander to other concerns.**
- P** These concerns are already known to God. Give them into His loving hands for resolution, but turn your hearts and minds to focus on our Lord's step-by-step determination to free us from every sin. Confident of the forgiveness He won through His glorious death and resurrection, let us then admit our sinful condition to Him and to one another.
- C** **I confess to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in my thinking, speaking, and acting. I am mired in sin and incapable of saving myself. Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake and because of His sacrifice for us fallen creatures, we beg You to forgive, strengthen, and turn us to Your will so that we may follow our Savior in loving service to You and to one another.**
- P** As a called and ordained servant of Christ, who gave Himself over to death that we might have eternal life, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Introit for Palm Sunday

Psalm 24:7–10; antiphon: Psalm 118:26

- C** **Blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.**
- P** 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!
- C** **Blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

Text: ESV®
Text: © 2001 Crossway Bibles. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110002861

Prayer of the Day

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

Apostles' Creed

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

- P** Because our Lord humbled Himself and became obedient even to death on the cross, now He is highly exalted, at the Father's right hand, ready and able to receive our prayers and accept our praise. Let us go to Him in prayer for all people in their various circumstances.
For people without the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter, that the Holy Spirit would hear their cries and groans, bringing tears of relief and peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- P** For all who face this day burdened with illness or addiction, ongoing conflict with people around them, or fear of what might happen, that God would assure them of His gracious presence and strengthen their faith in His guidance and protection, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- P** For those who serve the needs of others as they provide medical and emergency care, as they maintain order in our communities and peace across borders, and as they put themselves in danger that their neighbors may find the protection they need, that God would use the gifts He has placed within them to serve in compassion and love, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- P** For loving families and caring communities, for schools and institutions of higher learning, wherever people gather to share and build up, that God would provide them the wisdom and understanding they need to do His will, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- P** For people near and dear to us... that God would visit, relief, and console them in His grace and mercy, and for the church here and around the world, that our Lord would strengthen our faith and move us to be His servants, drawing people to His glorious death and resurrection and serving Him with all that we are and have, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Offering

Lord's Prayer

- C** 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 trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

- P** Let us pray. Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.