

In View of God's Mercy
A Series of Services for Holy Week
Palm Sunday: Mercy in Palms

Order of Service

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!" John 12:13

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P With palm branches in hand, we greet the One who comes to save us from our sin.

C Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

P With raised voices, we glorify the Messiah who comes humbly riding on a donkey.

C Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

P With jubilant song, we worship the King who comes to rule in righteousness and peace.

C Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

P With penitent hearts, we repent before the Lord who is holy and just.

C Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

P With soaring spirits, we rejoice in the God of our salvation.

C Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

P Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king comes to you sitting on a donkey's colt.

C Amen.

Hymn: All Glory, Laud, and Honor LSB #442

Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. **Refrain**

The company of angels is praising you on high,
And we with all creation in chorus make reply. **Refrain**

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. **Refrain**

To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. **Refrain**

As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, our good and gracious King. **Refrain**

Confession and Forgiveness

P On Palm Sunday the crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with the cry of "Hosanna!" But on Friday they called out for his execution, shouting "Crucify him!" So also our sin has led to Christ's crucifixion. We repent of that sin, and we seek God's mercy to absolve our iniquity.

C Most merciful God, we have sinned much and are in need of your salvation. We cry to you "Hosanna, save us!" We ask you not to remember our evil but instead to forgive our transgression. For the sake of your humble servant, Jesus Christ, pardon us and restore us in righteousness. Renew our spirits so that we walk in obedience to your Word, to the glory of your holy name.

P We cry to you for mercy.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

P Hear the good news! God's Word declares: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Behold, your king comes to you; righteous and having salvation is he" (Zechariah 9:9). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sins and gives you his righteousness, making you holy in his sight and giving you

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ... Zechariah 9:9-12

Epistle Reading ... 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Gospel Reading ... John 12:12-19

Hymn: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna LSB #443

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heav'n our King.
Oh may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P Almighty and merciful God, we approach your throne of grace today as your loyal subjects.

C Lord, have mercy.

P You summon us to humility, even as you came humbly riding on a donkey, so guide us to walk humbly before you and one another.

C Lord, have mercy.

P You summon us to worship, even as the children sang hosannas to you, so fill us with your Spirit to worship you in spirit and in truth.

C Lord, have mercy.

P You summon us to fidelity. Even as you set your face for Jerusalem and the cross, so give us faith to take up our cross and follow you.

C Lord, have mercy.

P You summon us to sacrifice. Even as you offered your life as the ultimate sacrifice for sin, so give us courage to present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to you.

C Lord, have mercy.

P In view of your mercy, move us by your Spirit to submit to your rule and live under your reign.

C Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!

P For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P May the merciful God, who sent his Son to be Savior of the world, direct you to follow him as King in faith and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

C Amen.

Hymn: Ride On, Ride On In Majesty! LSB #441

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue thy road, with palms and scattered garments stowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on his sapphire throne awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, thy pow'r and reign!

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