

* Please stand in stature or in heart as you are able.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Traditional Spiritual; arr. by Joel Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.
**We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips;
we will travel through betrayal and death,
cradling hope deep in our hearts.**
Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,
for he is the life we long for,
he is the Word who sustains us.
**We wave palm branches in anticipation;
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**
Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:
modeling humility and obedience for all of us.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.

OPENING PRAYER:

* *Who Is He*

(on insert)

CHILDREN'S CHAT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We love parades!

We love the excitement, the colors, the noise!

Today we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

His followers have stripped branches from the trees and wave them in the air.

**They have thrown their cloaks in the path of the donkey
that his steps might be cushioned.**

And the scene is wonderful. But there is a reality here.

**The reality is that although we wave our branches and shout "Hosanna!",
we have not always behaved as faithful disciples.**

**Too often we have wandered from the path of Christ
and stumbled along on our own, believing our way to be superior.**

**We have turned from those who have needed help,
because it wasn't convenient for us to be of help of service.**

We have done and said things that are not worthy of disciples.

Yet, here we stand, in the parade route, waving our branches.

Forgive us, Lord. Help us to turn our lives around and truly serve you.

Help us to really mean

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

**Enter our hearts and transform our lives today,
for we ask this in your holy name.**

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

* *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

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* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

** Glory Be to the Father*

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TIME OF PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER / THREE-FOLD AMEN

**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.
Amen.**

GOD'S WORD FOR US:

Mark 11:1-11

(The Reader says: "The Word of God for ALL people" ... the People respond: "Thanks BE to God")

SPECIAL MUSIC

Choir

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

"LOOKING BUT NOT SEEING"

PRAYER FOR A NEW HEART

Dag Hammerskjöld

**Thou who art over us,
Thou who art one of us,
Thou who art:
Give me a pure heart, that I may see thee;
a humble heart, that I may hear thee;
a heart of love, that I may serve thee;
a heart of faith, that I may abide in thee.
Amen.**

* OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD ...

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow ... # 94

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**Almighty and everlasting God,
as we bring our gifts and lay them at your altar,
we remember the crowds in Jerusalem
who lay their cloaks on the road, shouting "Hosanna" as Jesus passed.
We know they were looking for a Messiah
who was different from who you sent Jesus to be –
not one of political power and military might,**

but one who came in compassion and mercy to heal, love, and save.

Search our hearts that we might be confident the Messiah for whom we long
is the one you know we need – Jesus Christ, your anointed one, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

* *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

280 (verses 1, 3, 4)

* BENEDICTION

* *Lift High the Cross*

159 (verses 3, 4)

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THIS WEEK'S DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday ... Acts 3:11-16

Tuesday ... Acts 4:1-12

Wednesday ... Acts 5:17-32

Thursday ... Acts 2:22-36

Friday ... Ephesians 1:15-23

Saturday ... 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Sunday ... Isaiah 25:6-9 ... Acts 10:34-43 ...

... Psalm 118:14-24 ... Mark 16:1-8