



PALM SUNDAY

March 28, 2021

NOTES ON PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week – the most intense week of our Christian Year. Palm Sunday has been celebrated in the Christian Church since the 4th Century. 1,600 years ago believers in and around Jerusalem would retrace Jesus’ route from the Mount of Olives back into the city for worship.

Hosanna! is the shout of praise so familiar to Palm Sunday worshipers. It literally means “Save us we pray!” Jesus was riding into Jerusalem to do just that.

✠ THE ORDER OF SERVICE ✠

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

M: Dear friends in Christ, today we come together to begin the solemn celebration of Holy Week. Christ entered in triumph into his own city, to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion his entry that culminated at the empty tomb and follow him with a lively faith. United with him by Baptism, we share in his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray.

God our Father, we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed as king by those who shouted “Hosanna” and spread their clothing and palm branches in his path. Accept our praise and listen to our prayers as we rejoice in our triumphant King, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Zechariah 9:9,10

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 11:1-10

¹As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ²saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

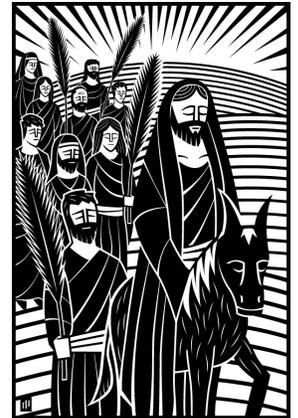
⁴They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

¹⁰ "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest!"



SERMON: Mark 11:1-10

"Praise Your King"

APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

M: Merciful Father, we come before you in this solemn season of Lent. For the past five weeks, our meditation has been on your Son's passion. And yet even in the midst of this focus, we have stumbled and failed. Every day of Lent, we have sinned in our actions, or in our speech, or in our thoughts, or in our attitudes, or — most likely — in all of these ways. Therefore, as we begin this most Holy Week, we humbly come before you, and we pray:

C: **Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins.
Blot out our transgressions. Take away our guilt.
Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
To the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

M: Father, you sent your Son to be perfect, precisely because you knew we could not be perfect. You sent Christ to obey the Law, precisely because you knew, no matter how intense our devotion, no matter how fervent our prayer, we would still break your Law. You sent your Son to show perfect love, for you knew that no matter how good our intentions, no matter how focused our efforts, our love for you and for others would be found lacking.

Therefore, through faith, we boldly claim Christ
— his righteousness, his beauty, his life —
as our own.

C: **His obedience we call our obedience.
His death we call our death to sin.
His power over temptation and Satan himself, we call our power.
His glory shall be our glory.
His resurrection shall be our resurrection.
His reign eternal shall be shared with us.**

M: His mission shall be our mission — to share the Good News of Christ, that at the name of Jesus, every knee might bow.

C: **And every tongue confess him King of Glory now.**

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**