

Year A; Palm Sunday
Liturgical Elements
Developed for April 2, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Liturgy of the Palms Readings:
 - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 - Reading Matthew 21:1-11
- Liturgy of the Passion Readings:
 - First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a
 - Psalm 31:9-16
 - Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11
 - Gospel Matthew 26:14-27:66
 - Or alternate Gospel Matthew 27:11-54

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 118*)

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever!

All: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures for ever."

One: Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

All: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

One: We thank you that you have answered us and have become our salvation.

All: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

One: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

One: The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the vestal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

All: You are our God, and we will give thanks to you; you are our God, we will extol you.

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

All: Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Matthew 21*)

Putting his pride aside, Jesus rode into Jerusalem a king but not with the luxuries and appearances of a king. He rode on a donkey sitting on cloaks before a crowd that welcomed the King of Kings. Let us place all pride aside and confess our sins.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*30 seconds*)

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from Matthew 21)*

Almighty God, we are a people who are often short of memory. As with Israel on Palm Sunday, at times we can shout our Hosannas. Hosanna to the Son of David! But a short time later, we can hide our faith. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Forgive our lack of trust. Forgive our lack of obedience. Grow us into the people you desire us to be; create a new heart within us that we might acknowledge you and obey you in all our moments. In the name of the One who was and is obedient in all his days and who died that we might live, our Lord Jesus. Amen.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW *(from Matthew 22)*

Our Lord Jesus said: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Psalm 130)*

The Psalmist writes, “I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. The Lord has become our salvation, also. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

All: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Matthew 21)*

Gracious God, as our Lord Jesus journeyed to Jerusalem and to the events we remember on Palm Sunday, he knew what he would confront. Even despite the hosannas he would receive from the crowd as he entered, he knew that future days would include false judgment and crucifixion. Thank you for his obedience and dedication that we might be saved in order to continue his work in these days. We give these tithes for that continuing work. Amen.

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