

**Year B; Palm Sunday**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for March 24, 2024**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- 2 Chronicles 9:13-28 (added to lectionary)
- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Mark 11:1-11
- Or John 12:2-16

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

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

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

**All: We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

One: The LORD is God, and he has given us light.

**All: Bind a festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.**

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

**All: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Let us worship the LORD.**

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

The righteous shall enter through the gate of the LORD, but we are not righteous. We have sinned before God and our neighbor. Let us confess our sins with hopes that God will show us his mercy.

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Psalm 118*)

**Merciful God, we gather in worship this day to worship the true king — the one who entered Jerusalem on a young donkey. On Palm Sunday thousands of years ago, the people greeted him as royalty; waving palm branches and spreading their cloaks. We can forget, as they did, who he is when the distractions of the world and our own selfishness make following him inconvenient, costly, or dangerous. Forgive our sin, O LORD. Help us to become as steadfast to you as you are to us. May we love you and others as you love us. We pray this in the name of the one who processed on a donkey, our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Psalm 118*)

The Psalmist trusts in the LORD's answer to his prayers for the LORD has become his salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. The stone that was rejected, Jesus the Messiah, has become our chief priest and our salvation. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Mark 11; Philippians 2*)

**Lord Jesus, you came not into Jerusalem as a king such that you deserved but as a peasant, riding on a donkey. You emptied yourself taking the form of a slave or servant, being born in human likeness and found in human form. You did this for a purpose — not for your gain but for our gain — not for your forgiveness as you were without sin but for our forgiveness — not for your understanding of God as you were God but for ours, which was lacking. In thankfulness, we offer these gifts to God and God's work in your name. Amen.**

Elements in this document are based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). Some portions are direct quotes; though, quotation marks and designations are usually left out for ease of use in bulletins and other worship resources. Usually, the Call to Worship is based upon the Psalm of the day and follows that Psalm very closely but modifying it for a leader vs. congregation responsive setting if necessary. Other elements usually deviate more significantly from the text. While they may quote very short sections, they are generally written in the theme of the text. Elements usually designate the book and chapter from which they are derived.

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