

Year C; Palm Sunday
Liturgical Elements
Developed for April 13, 2025
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Zechariah 9:9-12 (added to lectionary passages)
- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- Luke 19:28-40

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 118*)

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

All: Let Israel and the church say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

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 the vestal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

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

All: you are our God, we will enthusiastically praise you.

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Luke 19, 23*)

On Palm Sunday, the voices of the crowds would yell, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” In a few short days, though, they would yell “Crucify, crucify him!” Let us confess where our commitment to Jesus likewise fails to be steadfast.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Luke 19, 23*)

Gracious God, just as the crowds celebrated Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem but later condemned him, we can allow our faith to fail. We can profess you as Lord at one moment and withdraw our obedience in the next. We can celebrate your favor in answered prayer in one instance and put our trust in other powers when the next challenge confronts us. Forgive our fickle faith, and grow us into steadfast faith in you and obedience to you. In the name of Jesus, the Messiah. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from Zechariah 9*)

We worship a triumphant and victorious, though humble Lord. He has come to set the prisoners free and to restore to those who are imprisoned double. He rules the entire earth and offers reconciliation to God. Trust in Jesus and in the forgiveness and reconciliation he offers. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Luke 19)*

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven. Merciful God, you chose to come in human form as a humble and poor Israelite though truly a King greater than any king on earth. You showed us how to live, demonstrated peace, and died that we might have life and freedom from the will of evil forces and our own sinful wills. In thankfulness, we offer these gifts from that you have enabled us in every way to earn. Guide our church leaders to invest them in your continued work. 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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