

Palm Sunday, March 20

Jesus is proclaimed by the crowds to be the King of Israel. Many who identify with him on this day will turn against him by Friday.

The Prayer of Confession

*Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.
For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in your faithfulness.*

Psalm 26:2–3

The Gospel Reading

When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

Luke 19:29–40

The Psalm of Response

*Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.*

Psalm 29:1–2

The Prayer for the Day – of Dedication

Almighty and most gracious God, who gave your only-begotten Son for the salvation of the world, and for your peoples’ redemption; Grant that, as I remember today the way he went up to Jerusalem, there to suffer – the just for the unjust – so may I follow him in his holy footsteps. And, as in him I have died to sin, may I from now on in him live to righteousness, to the glory of your name.

Prayers for Common Worship, 1936

The Closing Psalm Prayer

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? ...
Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!*

Psalm 27:1,14