

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church  
Palm/Passion Sunday – March 24, 2024**

**Responsive Call to Worship – PWS&D Lenten Liturgy**



## Palm/Passion Sunday

*Written by the Rev. John Bannerman (PWS&D Committee Co-Convenor)*

**One:** On this Palm Sunday, we see Jesus  
entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey,  
showing us the way of peace.

**All:** **With palm branches in hand, we cry out "Hosanna,"  
save us now, save us from our warring madness.**

**One:** "We affirm that God is at work when people  
are ashamed of the inhumanity of war and  
work for peace with justice.

**All:** **"We pray for peace to him who is  
the Prince of Peace."** *(Living Faith 8.5.3)*



THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

**Hymn 217      Ride on, ride on in majesty**

**1. Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
hark, all the tribes Hosanna cry.  
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road  
with palms and scattered garments strewed.**

**2. Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
in lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**3. Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
the angel hosts beyond the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.**

**4. Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
the last and fiercest strife is nigh.  
Thy Father on the sapphire throne  
expects thee, loved, anointed Son.**

**5. Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
in lowly pomp ride on to die.  
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain;  
then take, O God, thy power and reign.**

**Prayer of Praise**      *(minister)*

**Prayer of Confession (congregation)**

**Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you with heart, life and voice, not only with outward signs such as palm branches or the occasional "Hosanna," but with lives truly turned towards you. The distance between us and you being welcomed as a king, yet riding on a lowly donkey, is so great. Greeted with cheers and acclamations which were so soon to turn to jeers and condemnation. From this side of the resurrection, we believe that we could never have been part of the jeering crowd - but would we, if we had been there? Forgive us.**

**- silent confession -**

**The Lord's Prayer**      **(Debts/Debtors)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**      *(minister)*

## **Liturgy of the Palms**

**Responsive Reading Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29**      **p. 565 NT & Psalms**

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let all Israel repeat:**

**“His faithful love endures forever.”**

<sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,  
and I will go in and thank the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> **These gates lead to the presence of the Lord,  
and the godly enter there.**

<sup>21</sup> I thank you for answering my prayer  
and giving me victory!

**22 The stone that the builders rejected  
has now become the cornerstone.**

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord’s doing,  
and it is wonderful to see.

<sup>24</sup> **This is the day the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

<sup>25</sup> Please, Lord, please save us.  
Please, Lord, please give us success.

<sup>26</sup> **Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

<sup>27</sup> The Lord is God, shining upon us.  
Take the sacrifice and bind it with cords on the altar.

<sup>28</sup> **You are my God, and I will praise you!  
You are my God, and I will exalt you!**

<sup>29</sup> **Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
His faithful love endures forever.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

*Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation

## **Gospel Lesson**

John 12:12-16    p. 183 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**1. Hosanna, loud hosanna  
the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple  
the joyful anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had held them close,  
close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises,  
the simplest and the best.**

**2. From Olivet they followed  
amid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving  
and chanting clear and loud.  
Messiah, God's anointed,  
rode there in humble state,  
"Hosanna, in the highest!"  
rang out their praises great.**

**3. "Hosanna in the highest!"  
that ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer,  
the Lord of heaven, our King.  
Oh may we ever praise him  
with heart and life and voice,  
and in God's joyful presence  
eternally rejoice.**

### **Liturgy of the Passion**

#### **Responsive Reading Psalm 31:9-16 p. 480 New Testament & Psalms**

<sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in distress.  
Tears blur my eyes.  
My body and soul are withering away.

**<sup>10</sup> I am dying from grief;  
my years are shortened by sadness.  
Sin has drained my strength;  
I am wasting away from within.**

<sup>11</sup> I am scorned by all my enemies  
and despised by my neighbors—

even my friends are afraid to come near me.  
When they see me on the street,  
they run the other way.

**<sup>12</sup> I am ignored as if I were dead,  
as if I were a broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup> I have heard the many rumors about me,  
and I am surrounded by terror.  
My enemies conspire against me,  
plotting to take my life.

**<sup>14</sup> But I am trusting you, O Lord,  
saying, "You are my God!"**

<sup>15</sup> My future is in your hands.

Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly.

**<sup>16</sup> Let your favor shine on your servant.  
In your unfailing love, rescue me.**

### **Scripture Lessons:**

Isaiah 50.4-9a

p. 598 pew Bible

Philippians 2.5-11

p. 342 New Testament & Psalms

Mark 15.1-47

p. 93 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God!***

### **Hymn 221      O dearest Lord**

**1. O dearest Lord, thy sacred head  
with thorns was pierced for me:  
pour out thy blessing on my head  
that I may think for thee.**

**2. O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands  
with nails were pierced for me:  
pour out thy blessing on my hands  
that they may work for thee.**

**3. O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet  
with nails were pierced for me:  
pour out thy blessing on my feet  
that they may follow thee.**

**4. O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart  
with spear was pierced for me:  
pour out thy spirit in my heart**

that I may live for thee.

**Sermon We hold them both**

**Prayers of the People (minister)**

**Hymn 239 O sacred head, sore wounded**

**1. O sacred head, sore wounded,  
with grief and shame weighed down,  
now scornfully surrounded  
with thorns, thine only crown;  
how art thou pale with anguish,  
with sore abuse and scorn;  
how does that visage languish  
which once was bright as morn.**

**2. What thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
was all for sinners' gain;  
mine, mine was the transgression,  
but thine the deadly pain;  
lo, here I fall, my Saviour;  
'tis I deserve thy place;  
look on me with thy favour;  
oh grant to me thy grace.**

**3. What language shall I borrow  
to thank thee, dearest Friend,  
for this, thy dying sorrow,  
thy pity without end?  
Oh make me thine forever,  
and should I fainting be,  
oh, let me never, never  
outlive my love for Thee.**

**4. Be near when I am dying,  
oh show thy cross to me.  
and, to my rescue flying,  
come, Lord, and set me free:  
these eyes, new faith receiving,  
from Jesus shall not move,  
for those who die believing  
die safely through thy love.**

**Offering & Offertory**

## **Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### **Prayer of Dedication (congregation)**

**Lord Jesus, compared with the gift you gave for our sake, what we offer today seems so small. Bless our gifts with your love so that they accomplish more than we can even imagine. Bless our lives, too, so that what we do and say will show we have the commitment to follow you, whatever the cost. Amen.**

### **Hymn 231 When I survey the wondrous cross**

- 1. When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.**
- 3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
- 4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

### **Choral Blessing**

### **Benediction**

### **Piano Postlude**