



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford, Texas 76086

817-594-2744

www.gracefirstpc.org



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY

March 28, 2021

Prelude with Palm Procession

St. Drostan

arr. H. Alexander Matthews

“Palm Sunday Procession”

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Blessed is the coming kingdom.

Hosanna in the highest!

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it.

Blessed is the coming kingdom.

Hosanna in the highest!

They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting. "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Blessed is the coming kingdom.

Hosanna in the highest!

Prayer of Invocation

God of salvation, in the holiest of weeks, help us to walk the way of the cross, that we may be raised in a resurrection like Jesus and dwell forever in you. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

196 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

TEXT: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 820; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.
 MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1614; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
 7.6.7.6.D

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to God, whose steadfast love endures forever as we pray together first the prayer printed in your bulletin followed by your own silent prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

We confess that we have sinned, and although we would like to deny it, we have forsaken you. We are horrified by the suffering we cause—to you, ourselves, and the world you have created. Open the gates of your forgiveness and restore us in your love.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord God help us; we will not be disgraced. The Lord God helps us; who can declare us guilty? Siblings, beyond the shadow of doubt, your sins are forgiven. By the mercy of Christ, let us stand together forgiven and free.

Prayer of Illumination

Come Holy Spirit, source of all life. As we hear again the story of Christ, let the same mind be in us that was in him. Awaken our ears, open our hearts, and sustain the weary with your Word. Amen.

First Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Music Ministry

J. Faure
arr. Kenneth Downing

“The Palms”

Sanctuary Choir 2010

Where e’er we go, the palms along our way,
now on this festival their fronds are showing,
Lo, Jesus comes to dry our tears today,
see how to welcome Him the throngs advance.

*Sing, one and all, the chorus raise,
voicing your happy cry of acclamation:
Hosanna! Our Lord we praise!
Bless Him who bringeth us salvation!*

He spake the word, and nations, slaves no more,
joy to regain freedom so long denied them;
Man enters on the rights he held of yore,
to them the light that failed He doth restore,

Sing and be glad, O blest Jerusalem,
sing now your sons’ glorious liberation;
Out of His lore the Christ of Bethlehem
grants you the hope and faith that never fail.

Second Reading

Mark 11:1-11

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

198 Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

1 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the
2 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
4 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur -
pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and
pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to

sues its road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
mor - tal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

This 19th-century Palm Sunday text is better understood as the reflections of someone standing outside the event rather than as coming from those participating in the actual procession. This poignant text is set to a tune written especially for it later in the same century.

TEXT: Henry Hart Milman, 1827, alt.
MUSIC: John Bacchus Dykes, 1862

ST. DROSTANE
LM

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer for the People and Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Stewardship

With humble hearts bowed in awe of God's wondrous works, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offertory

Paul Manz

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

Congregational Response Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth*

Doxology

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. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, we give thanks for the saving love made known to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Bless these gifts that they may bring life on earth as in heaven; in Christ's name we pray. Amen

630

Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robbed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

TEXT: Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; stanzas 1–3, trans. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850, alt.; stanza 4, trans. Joseph August Seiss, 1873, alt.
 MUSIC: Silesian folk melody; *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842

CRUSADE'S HYMN
 5.6.8.5.5.8

Benediction

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Postlude

Bangor

“Alone Thou Goest Forth”

Music Note:

Today's anthem was written in the 1930's.

*The text is a bit more formal and showing
the use of language during that time.*

Liturgy taken from: Feasting on the Word:
Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1
Cover Art: *Palm Sunday* by Jen Norton