

Call to Worship

Please stand and join me in the responsive call to worship found on the back of your bulletin.

One: Blessed is the One who bears the holy name of the Lord of creation.

Many: *Blessed is the One who comes with the presence and promise of the Holy One.*

One: Blessed is the One whose footsteps pursue God's will in heaven and on earth.

Many: *Blessed is the One who leads us from fear and frustration to redeemed living.*

One: Blessed is the One whose light shines upon us and within us.

Many: *Blessed is the One who illumines the evil structures of arrogance, hatred, and war.*

One: Blessed is the One who welcomes us in God's holy peace.

Many: *Blessed is the One who emboldens us to challenge every godless act with godly grace.*

One: From the Lord's house we bless you, Emmanuel.

Many: *With boughs in hand, we join in the festal procession to welcome you, Most Blessed One.*

by Paul Roth, retired Brethren minister
Rockingham, Virginia
from Church of the Brethren *Living Word* bulletin
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Please remain standing and let us join our voices in singing

“Hosanna, loud hosanna”

#238 in your hymnal

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna the little children sang.
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.
2. From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm-branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.
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 his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

words by Jeannette Threlfall, 1873, alt.

Invocation

Lord Jesus, come among us. Enter our ordered, yet frazzled lives. Speak the truth we yearn to hear. Whisper heaven's grace to uncover blessing in unanswered prayer. Hold us in perfect peace. Keep our minds staid on your humble pattern of faithfulness. Deepen our trust in God. May the power of your name bind us to your way and will. Amen.

by Paul Roth, retired Brethren minister
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Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Through our offerings we identify with the cause of Christ. We proclaim our concern for all people, and we name them all as our next of kin. We identify with their suffering and grief and we rejoice when good comes to them. God gives both our material resources and our personal time and effort to us. Let us now extend them through the body of Christ into this moment of history and into the whole world.

created or adapted by Rev. David Chafin
Deputy Regional Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia
from his blog: *Life in Liturgy*
<https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/2018/03/11/lent-5b-2/>

Ushers, please come forward and guide our giving.

Offertory

Mark 11:1-11

¹ When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² 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. ³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom
of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹ 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.

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National Council of the Churches of Christ
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Confession of sins

Please join me in the responsive confession of sins found in the back of your hymnal on page 690.

(pause until everyone looks like they're ready)

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your unfailing love;

**People: Blot out all our transgressions,
according to your great compassion;**

Leader: Wash away all our iniquities
and cleanse us from our sin.

**People: For we know our transgressions,
and our sin is always before us.**

Leader: We have sinned against you
and have done what is evil in your sight.

ALL: as sacrifice we bring our broken and contrite hearts.

Hymnal #690
©1988, Ruth A. Yoder
26175 Woodridge Dr., Elkhart, IN 46517.

Sharing a joy, a concern, a word of testimony or praise

As we move toward our morning prayer, pick up the palm branch you were handed this morning. You are holding a bit of nature. Isn't it good to see green after the snow storm of this week, which blew through on the first day of Spring? The promise is becoming reality. Color and warmth are on their way, slowly but surely. We, also, are on our way. Following Jesus.

Lift up your palm branch. Wave it around a bit. Like with the motion of the wind, the leaves move. Imagine the words of Isaiah through them: "*and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands*" (55:12). Picture in your mind the gospel story we just heard. Jesus entering Jerusalem. And there are these palms, waving about like applause, being laid in front of him like a green carpet, along with various outer garments no longer needed because warmth is in the air.

"Hosanna!" Say the word out loud. "Hosanna!" Feel the sound. "Hosanna!" Wave your palm branch. "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." Open your heart and mind. "Hosanna in the highest!" As we sing the slow and contemplative hymn, "Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord!" (#75), I invite you to keep holding up your palm branch and move it with the unhurried rhythm of the music. At some point later in the service, like during the final hymn or the postlude, you may wish to bring your branch forward and place it beneath, or somehow attach it to this simple, wooden cross. However the Spirit moves you.

For now, let us come to our time of prayer with a song.

“Holy, holy, holy”

1a

Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord!
Holy, holy, holy, holy God alone!
God, who, uncreated, God who always was,
endlessly exalted, reign forevermore.

2a

Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord!
Holy, holy, holy, holy God alone!
Mighty, wondrous, loving, circled round with awe;
holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord!

Hymn #75

by Johann Philipp Neumann (1774-1849)

translation copyright © 1990 John D. Rempel

music by Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828)

from *Gesänge zur Feier des heiligen Opfer der Messe*, 1826

Pastoral Prayer

Through the shouts and branches, the Savior rides again into our hearts, our Jerusalems, the places that we have fortified, sometimes against even God’s truth and love. Patient God, be with us today as we witness again the entry of Jesus into the holy city. Remind us that our “holy cities,” our souls, need to welcome Jesus, truly in celebration and in commitment to his witness to us. We can so easily get caught up in the noise and forget the Savior. We can get so focused on the celebration and colors that we look past the solitary figure on the small donkey. We stand at the gates this day to welcome Jesus. May our welcome of Jesus also be reflected in our welcome of others who come into our midst. Free us from judgment and prejudice, that we may be open to hearing your word through the ministry of Jesus and the disciples. As we have spoken the names of ones who are near and dear to us who need your healing love, O God, help us also to remember that we need a good measure of your grace and mercy. Bring us through this parade into the comfort of your love. Hosanna! Blessed is Jesus! Blessed is He who has come and who continues to come into our lives forever. AMEN.

by Nancy C. Townley
an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church
from ministrymatters.com

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

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Message

“Pausing at the gate”

“All glory, laud, and honor”

Refrain: All glory, laud, & honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name cometh, the King and blessed one.
All glory, laud, & honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
2. The company of angels is praising thee on high,
and we, with all creation, in chorus make reply.
All glory, laud, & honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
3. The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.
All glory, laud, & honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
4. To thee before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
All glory, laud, & honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
5. Thou didst accept their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.
All glory, laud, & honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

Hymn #238
words by Theodulph of Orleans, ca. 820
translated by John Mason Neale, 1851
the tune, *St. Theodulph*, by Melchior Teschner, 1613

Benediction

Through him,
with him,
and in him, in the power of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor be to you, O God,
now and forever. Amen.

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Postlude