

# Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

April 2, 2023

## Welcome to Worship at Zion!

*Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.*

## We Gather

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### WELCOME

### INTRODUCTION & ACCLAMATION

As we begin our worship, we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, during which the crowds proclaim him a king.

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

**Hosanna in the highest!**

### PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

### BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray... We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



**ZION**  
Ministries Under the Cross

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Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community,  
and extends God's radical welcome to all people,  
because we're all created in God's image.

## GATHERING HYMN

Hymn #344

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

## SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray...

## We Hear & Respond to God's Word

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### FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

### SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5-11

### MUSICAL REFLECTION

"In the Name of the Lord"

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

### PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

### OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## We Feast at the Lord's Table

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### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## SONG DURING THE SHARING OF THE MEAL

"Hosanna"

### Refrain

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

# We Are Sent into the World

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## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together... **O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERMON

### GOSPEL READING

*Today's Gospel reading resumes immediately following the joy and celebration of Palm Sunday and propels us into the events of Christ's Passion, leaving us in suspense for the continuation of the story.*

### “STAY HERE”

*The worship leaders will sing the response three times, after which the liturgy is suspended until the beginning of Maundy Thursday worship.*

*The worship concludes with a meditative period of silence.*

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# Today's Readings

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023

## Processional Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>"Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a  
donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had

directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

## Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled  
out the beard;

I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been  
disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to  
shame;

<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

