

# Palm/Passion Sunday, Year B

**Color:** Purple/Scarlet or Red  
**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

## LITURGY OF THE PALMS

[Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29](#) (*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord*)

[Mark 11:1-11](#) (*Hosanna! The people cry as Jesus rides on a donkey*)

[or] [John 12:12-16](#)

## LITURGY OF THE PASSION

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#) (*The suffering servant of the Lord*)

[Philippians 2:5-11](#) (*Christ Jesus: humbled to the point of death on a cross*)

[Mark 14:1-15:47](#) (*The passion of the Lord*)

[or] [Mark 15:1-47](#)

**Themes:** Praise, Festal Entry, Rejection, Mind of Christ, Communion, Crucifixion

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

*Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org), a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.*

<a href="#">All Glory, Laud, and Honor</a> (ST. THEODULPH).....	Psalms, Mark 11
<a href="#">All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine</a> (SINE NOMINE).....	Philippians
<a href="#">At the Name of Jesus</a> (KING'S WESTON; BARBARA).....	Philippians
<a href="#">A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd</a> (CHRISTIAN LOVE).....	Psalms, Mark 11 and 15
<a href="#">Go to Dark Gethsemane</a> (REDHEAD NO. 76).....	Mark 15
<a href="#">The Head that Once Was Crowned With Thorns</a> (AZMON; ST. MAGNUS).....	Philippians, Mark 15
<a href="#">Hosanna, Loud Hosanna</a> (ELLACOMBE).....	Psalms, Mark 11
<a href="#">Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates</a> (TRURO).....	Psalms, Mark 11
<a href="#">My Song Is Love Unknown</a> (LOVE UNKNOWN).....	Isaiah, Philippians, Mark 15
<a href="#">O Sacred Head, Now Wounded</a> (PASSION CHORALE).....	Isaiah, Philippians, Mark 15
<a href="#">Ride On, Ride On in Majesty</a> (ST. DROSTANE; WINCHESTER NEW).....	Psalms, Mark 11
<a href="#">Were You There</a> (WERE YOU THERE).....	Mark 15
<a href="#">What Wondrous Love Is This</a> (WONDROUS LOVE).....	Philippians, Mark 15
<a href="#">When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</a> (HAMBURG; ROCKINGHAM).....	Mark 15

# ANTHEMS

*E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult*

**Antiphonal Hosanna** – E..... Psalms, Mark 11  
G. Alan Smith/Jack Schrader, arr.  
© 1983, 2004, Hope Publishing, C5262  
SATB, Children’s Choir, Piano

**Draw Nigh to Jerusalem** – M..... Mark 11  
David H. Williams  
© 1956, H.W. Gray, 2410  
SATB, Organ

**Go to Dark Gethsemane** – E..... Philippians, Mark 15  
Gilbert Martin  
© 1968, Theodore Presser, 312-40618  
Unison, Organ

**He Is King of Kings** – M..... Philippians  
Negro Spiritual/Alice Parker, arr.  
© 1995, GIA Publications, G-4234  
SATB, Solo, a cappella

**Hosanna! Blessed Is He** – E ..... Psalms, Mark 11  
Christian Gregor/Hal H. Hopson, arr.  
© 2013, Choristers Guild, CGA1360  
SATB, Children’s Choir, Keyboard

**Lamb of God** – ME..... Isaiah, Mark 15  
Nikolaus Decius/F. Melius Christiansen, arr.  
© 1961, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-5259-3  
SATB, a cappella

**My Eternal King** – M..... Philippians, Mark 11, 15  
Jane Marshall  
© 1954, C. Fischer, CM 6752  
SATB, Organ

**My Song Is Love Unknown** – ME.... Isaiah, Philippians  
John Ireland/Donald Busarow, arr.  
© 1978, Concordia Publishing, 98-2336  
SAB, Organ

**O Vos Omnes** – MD ..... Isaiah, Mark 15  
Blake R. Hanson  
© 2006, GIA Publications, G-6483  
SSATB, a cappella

**Sing Hosanna! Sannanina!** – M..... Psalms, Mark 11  
South African Traditional/Nancy Grundahl, arr.  
© 2006, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-3872-6  
SATB, Percussion

**They Crucified My Lord** – M..... Mark 15  
Negro Spiritual/Michael Burkhardt, arr.  
© 2016, MorningStar Music, 50-3054  
Solo, SATB, Organ, Handbells, Opt. Timpani

– YOUTH and CHILDREN –

*Note: multi-generational anthems included above in  
“Antiphonal Hosanna” and “Hosanna! Blessed Is He”*

**Ride On!** – M ..... Mark 11  
Negro Spiritual/Taylor Davis, arr.  
© 2007, Choristers Guild, CGA1116  
SATB, Piano

**Lift Up Your Heads** – E ..... Psalms, Mark 11  
Jody Lindh  
© 1987, Choristers Guild, CGA420  
Unison/2-Part, Piano, Opt. Percussion, Synthesizer

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*As long as homo sapiens (the “thinking beings”)  
have been aware of an Otherness in their world,  
they have gathered to worship.  
So today, with our countless ancestors  
of all ages, we enter here,  
these “gates of righteousness” seeking God.  
Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you!*

— RUSS DEAN\*

## THREE CALLS TO WORSHIP

(MARK 11, MATTHEW 4 & 5, JOHN 14)

On that day so long ago,  
the crowds shouted their joy:

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

Let us share their faith that God does come among  
us with blessings of comfort and encouragement.

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

On this day of remembrance,  
let us celebrate our own joy:

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

And let us remember that Jesus calls his disciples  
“the light of the world,” and invites us to  
“follow,” to do as he has done – even “greater  
works” – because he has shown us the way.

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

This is a day of celebration – and of challenge:

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

(MATTHEW 16 [NON-LECTIONARY TEXT], ISAIAH 50)

Jesus said, “*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*”

**The Lord God helps me: I have “set my face,”  
steeled my courage for the challenge;**

*“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”*

**The one who vindicates us is near: Let us stand  
together; we will not be put to shame.**

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(MARK 12 [NON-LECTIONARY TEXT], PHILIPPIANS 2)

Jesus said, “*Love the Lord your God with all your mind.*”

**We say, “Mind your manners...” “Don’t mind him...”  
“If you put your mind to it...”**

So, let the same mind be in you that was in Christ  
Jesus,

**That we might love as he loved, emptying  
ourselves, serving one another, humbling  
ourselves, giving all.**

*“Love the Lord your God with all your mind” –  
The mind of Christ.*

## TWO GATHERING PRAYERS

ON CHRIST’S ENTRY TO JERUSALEM

With those crowds of long ago,  
we gather today hoping for something special.  
They wanted a miracle, a healer,  
a savior, a king.  
All they got was Jesus.  
As we gather may God temper our expectations,  
our wants in the fire of faith.  
All we will get is Jesus, too.  
May the triumph of his love always be enough.  
Amen.

ON CHRIST’S PASSION

We come together in these moments to worship,  
and worship begins in humility – brave but honest  
humility. In the humility of weakness we gather, for  
God’s power is made perfect in weakness. In the  
humility of community we gather, for where two or  
three are together, Christ is with us. In the humility  
of Christ’s example we gather, for only those who  
will lose their life will find it. We come together in  
these moments to worship. May God give us  
strength, for we are the body of Christ.

## THREE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### PALM SUNDAY

O God – how we love a parade!  
The thrill of a crowd waiting,  
anticipating,  
then the gathering noise,  
then the cheering, the shouts, the waving.

And then it's over. And we go home and just get by  
until the circus comes to town. Why this need for the  
sensational, the spectacular?

May God steady our desires and open our eyes to  
truth and love and goodness, coming our way, every  
day. Amen.

### ON PHILIPPIANS 2

Our culture, like all earthly cultures, values those  
who are exalted. We value strength and power,  
fame and fortune. We celebrate the best and the  
brightest, the strongest and the most beautiful. But  
Jesus said the Kingdom of God looks nothing like  
that. The last are first, the greatest will be the  
servant, valleys are raised, mountains are made low.  
When earth is, as it is in heaven, the rough ground  
becomes a level playing field for all.

May God forgive us for exalting the values of  
culture over the Kingdom and give us the mind of  
Christ. Amen.

### FORGIVE US, O GOD

Forgive us, O God, for domesticating Jesus – for smoothing his rough edges, explaining  
away his uncomfortable silences, for wrapping him in our flags, labeling him with our  
biases, limiting him by our narrow-mindedness. As we remember his “triumph” that  
day, remind us that he is not “our Jesus” – but yours. Just as mysterious. Just as  
challenging. Just as unpredictable. And just as filled with compassion and forgiveness  
and unconditional love as the one he called “Father.” Forgive us for wanting a tame  
Lord – and give us the wild heart of Jesus, his unquenchable passion, his unrelenting  
love, even today. Amen.

## TWO PRAYERS OF ILLUMINATION

### (ON PSALM 118)

As our season of Lenten waiting, of sober reflection,  
honest confession builds toward an Easter sunrise,  
we find ourselves expectant and hopeful today.

May God open our eyes to every goodness that  
comes our way and to every blessing we might pass  
by, unaware.

May God deepen our shallow excitements with  
true faith, a joy that Jesus teaches in triumph and in  
tragedy.

God has given us light. Illumine us today – for  
Jesus is coming our way!

### (MARK 15, THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS, MATTHEW 5)

When it was noon on that sad day  
darkness came over the whole land.  
It took the darkness to illumine the light of love:  
*“for it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”*

As we remember that darkness,  
may the God of deep and generous Love  
call us to a life of sacrificial giving,  
that our light might shine  
in the dark places of our world.

## THREE BENEDICTIONS

(NUMBERS 6, PSALM 118)

May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May God's face shine upon you.  
And may God be gracious to you as you go,  
May steadfast love guide you.  
As you go, know that the gates of righteousness  
have been opened to you, opened for you.  
Go through them,  
into the sanctuary of the world  
that your service may be your celebration.

(ISAIAH 50, PHILIPPIANS 2, MARK 15)

As you go, go in the example of Christ:  
Setting your face  
to the challenges you will meet,  
Emptying yourself  
as a servant of love,  
Going into the dark places,  
That God's light may shine through you.  
Take up your cross.  
Be at peace. Amen.

### REMEMBER

As you go, remember when Jesus first came your way.  
Renew that excitement today –  
But the road is long,  
And faith is a promise  
Not just a parade.  
Remember when Jesus first came your way.  
He will be with you always.  
Go in peace.

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\* Thanks to Russ Dean for his contribution of today's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor