

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

*indicates when you are invited to stand
BOLDED WORDS are read aloud together

GATHERING

We are drawn together as God's beloved community

PRELUDE

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Chen Liang
LARSON

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Jeny Carlson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Saskia de Vries

King Jesus comes, King Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah.

Hail! King Jesus, King of all!

Recall the words of the Scriptures: "A great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!'"

In praise we adore you, Jesus.

Enter our hearts today as you entered Jerusalem long ago, and lead us by faith in the way everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN OF GATHERING #475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Dustin Wilsor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PARDON

Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace, humbled yourself and gave yourself for us. We confess our lack of humility. As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted "Hosanna: 'Save us now!'" By Good Friday they will shout "Crucify!" We confess our praise is often empty. We sing "Hosanna," but cry "Crucify." As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself. We confess that we want to be accepted by the world and take the easy way that avoids the call of justice. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow your Way of Love. Amen.

*KYRIE ELEISON #577

Kyrie eleison (4x), Lord have mercy (4x)

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

GOD'S WORD

We hear the testimony of God's faithful acts

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Saskia de Vries

Eternal God, whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty: Quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may receive grace to show Christ's love in lives given to your service. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Hosanna

NPC Choir

SLEETH

STORIES FOR ALL

Dustin Wilsor

SECOND LESSON

Mark 11:1-11
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Covenant of Blessing

Rev. Jeny Carlson

*HYMN OF REFLECTION #486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

THE EUCHARIST

We offer ourselves in thanksgiving. With gratitude, we receive God's gifts.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please bring forward your sock donations to Operation Nightwatch

*DOXOLOGY #609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known. Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After the spoken prayer, there will be an open time of prayer for the congregation to offer a short sentence of prayer.

Leader: Lord, In your mercy,

Congregational refrain: **Hear our prayer.**

THE 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE SENDING

We move out into the world by the power of the Spirit in boldness

*HYMN OF SENDING #547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Chen Liang

WELLS

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

1 Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
 2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -
 3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you
 4 Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to

with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
 a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our
 are, from God you came. Back to God we hum - bly
 lis - ten for God's call. Grow to laugh and sing and

sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
 spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
 give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.
 wor - ship; trust and love God more than all.

This hymn addressed to a newly-baptized child begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547

1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.