

Palm Sunday Morning Worship

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

For the five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's suffering and death. Today, together with the whole church, we begin this holy week by welcoming our Messiah. So, like the people of long ago, let us welcome Jesus and follow him to the cross.

Let us pray:

Lord, as we remember how Christ the King entered Jerusalem to the sound of joyful shouts, increase our faith and listen to our prayers, so that we may praise you every day, by living always in him. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN LHB 7 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

Dear friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

He made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.

Then he forgave the guilt of my sin.

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to you all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased you and deserve your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask you, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

Amen.

HYMN LHB 86 All glory, laud, and honour

PSALM 31:9-16

- ⁹ Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eyes grow weak with sorrow,
my soul and my body with grief.
- ¹⁰ My life is consumed by anguish
and my years by groaning;
my strength fails because of my affliction,
and my bones grow weak.
- ¹¹ Because of all my enemies,
I am the utter contempt of my neighbors;
I am a dread to my friends—
those who see me on the street flee from me.
- ¹² I am forgotten by them as though I were dead;
I have become like broken pottery.
- ¹³ For I hear the slander of many;
there is terror on every side;
they conspire against me
and plot to take my life.
- ¹⁴ But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my God."
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hands;
deliver me from my enemies
and from those who pursue me.
- ¹⁶ Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your unfailing love.

**Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forevermore. Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace, among those with whom he is pleased.

Amen.

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty and eternal God, you sent your Son, our Saviour, to take our nature on himself and to suffer and die on the cross. Lead us to follow the example of his great humility, and bring us to share in his resurrection.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a The obedience of the Lord's servant

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5-11 Christ - obedient servant and exalted Lord

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

Christ humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

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 Spirit, 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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

HYMN LHB 51 Let Thy blood in mercy poured

SERMON

OFFERING

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me a willing spirit.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jesus willingly submitted to suffer in our place. Let us pray to God our Father, and place in his hands the suffering of the world.

Heavenly Father: we pray for your church on earth, that all Christians may bear their cross and follow Jesus.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have no faith, like the crowds. Bless the witness of your church this holy week that the word of your Son's death and resurrection may be clearly portrayed before the world.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have sinned, like Peter. Teach us to be sorry for our sins, and forgive us for Jesus' sake.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for prisoners and criminals like Barabbas. May they find true freedom by changing the way they live.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for people in government, like Pilate. May they be responsible and serve truth and justice.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are dying, like the thieves who died with Jesus. May they die with Jesus by their side, and be received into your kingdom.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for parents like Mary who have lost a child. May they bear their suffering and know the comfort of your love.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the whole human race, that we may all come to know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father, may the suffering and death of Jesus lighten the burdens of all those who suffer. Lead us in the way of the cross, so that, as we suffer with Jesus, we may rise to life in his glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

HYMN LHB 733 Daughter of Zion, O rejoice!

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour,† and give you peace.

Amen. Amen. Amen.