

## **THE PLOT THICKENS**

### **AS WE GATHER**

Sunday, “the eighth day of the week,” is celebrated by Christians as the first day of the eternal life into which they were baptized. Today, the beginning of the great and Holy Week of Lent, we begin with the note of great joy as the crowds receive Jesus entering Jerusalem. This will be the last time He comes to the holy city. For we then follow Him to the judgment hall, the cross of suffering, and the fearful tomb of death. The penitential season of Lent concludes with the three holy days, the Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Let us follow our Lord and allow Him to take our sins upon Himself that we may receive His new life in the forgiveness of our sins and the joy of the resurrection.

## **PREPARATION**

### **GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

**P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C** Hosanna to the Son of David.

### **PROCESSIONAL READING**

*John 12:9–24*

<sup>9</sup>When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

<sup>10</sup>So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup>because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

<sup>12</sup>The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” <sup>14</sup>And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

<sup>15</sup>“Fear not, daughter of Zion;  
behold, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

<sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup>The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup>The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup>So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

## 442 ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR

*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re - deem - er, King,  
 To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,  
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;  
 4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;  
 5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*

Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.  
 And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.  
 Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.  
 To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## CONCLUSION

- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** **Hosanna in the highest.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** God's steadfast love endures forever!  
 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.
- C** **Although we are on the way to the heavenly promised land, like the Israelites in the desert, we complain about many things. We are sinful and unclean at heart and often follow the desires of the body and the mind.**

**P** God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,  
**C** **made us alive together with Christ.**

**P** God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,  
**C** **but in order that the world might be saved through Him.**

**P** By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Zechariah 9:9–12*

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall speak peace to the nations;  
his rule shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*Philippians 2:5–11*

<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 19:28-46*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>28</sup>And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup>When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup>saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” <sup>32</sup>So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup>And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup>And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” <sup>35</sup>And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup>As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup>saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” <sup>39</sup>And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” <sup>40</sup>He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

<sup>41</sup>And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup>saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup>For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup>and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

<sup>45</sup>And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, <sup>46</sup>saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

- P** Let us go forth in peace  
**C** in the name of the Lord.

## 525 CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
 2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,  
 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
 Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a - dorn:  
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.  
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
 Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The  
 No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
 His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who  
 Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.  
 Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

Text (sts. 1-3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

### APOSTLES' CREED

- C** 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, died and was 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness with which You bless Your whole creation. Above all, however, we give You thanks that You sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to be our true King, Your Suffering Servant whose death delivers us and all believers from sin, death, and hell. Give us Your grace that we be faithful in our walk and in our hope, love, and worship. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Inspire Your whole Church throughout the world to rightly hear and follow Jesus, our eternal King and Lord, in humble faith with thanksgiving. Give wisdom and grace to all pastors that they give themselves to a living and lively proclamation of Your Law and Gospel through which You work true, saving repentance and faith in many. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Give Your grace, forgiveness, wisdom, blessing, and guidance to all who bear the offices of government in our nation and throughout the world. Lead them to the faithful exercise of their authority for peace and justice, and for the defense and liberty of all people, especially the most vulnerable. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Give peace and patience, comfort and healing to all who suffer illness or adversity or who are in sorrow or need, *especially Hedy, Jean, Kathleen, Ray, Sallyann, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Jean, Jen, John, Leah, Rod, Kris, Kevin and Alex*. Deliver all who endure persecution for faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*Individual petitions may be added here.*

**P** We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. [*Silence for remembrance.*] Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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 trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** 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 favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## 441 RIDE ON, RIDE ON IN MAJESTY



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the  
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel  
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Thy last and  
5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -  
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy tri - umphs  
ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and  
fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on His  
pomp ride on to die. Bow Thy meek head to



sue Thy road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.  
now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
won - d'ring eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
sap - phire throne A - waits His own a - noint - ed Son.  
mor - tal pain, Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.

Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, 1690, Hamburg, alt.

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