



— AT THE —  
**CROSSROADS**



**SUFFERING**  
A SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

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Sample**

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LEADER'S GUIDE

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PALM SUNDAY

PALM SUNDAY: SUFFERING  
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A SERVICE FOR  
PALM SUNDAY

ABOUT “AT THE CROSSROADS”

*Many of those involved in the story of the Passion of Christ came to a crossroads and had to decide which way to go. Some chose well, some did not, and the stories of each of these experiences at various crossroads help us to know what to do and what not to do when we encounter similar crossroads in our own lives. In the end, each service in the series reveals in some way how Christ and his cross lead us to decide the path of God's will for us.*

For each service the kit contains: sample bulletins with complete orders of service • sermons dialogs for two readers • prayers • music for the accompanist and contemporary music song suggestions.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Additional resources are available from Creative Communications for the Parish. Contact us for current pricing and availability. Call us at 1-800-325-9414. Or visit our website:

[www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com).

### **Bulletins For Palm Sunday Kit:**

Code **CRDT** (printed) • 8.5” x 11” bulletins

Code **CRDW** (blank) • 8.5” x 11” bulletins

Code **CRDX** (blank) • 8.5” x 14” bulletins

### **A Complete Series For The Weeks Of Lent Is Available:**

Those who desire may supplement this service with other services for all of Lent. They are available as a kit and include all the Leader’s Guide features described above. The kit includes a CD-ROM (Mac/PC) in RTF format with text of services and of bulletins, plus PDF files of the kit, and PowerPoint documents for use on screens. Kit Code **CRDU**

#### **Ash Wednesday**

Confession • Psalm 32:1-5

As a model for us, the psalmist David reaches the crossroads of confession and confesses his sins to the Lord. We are called to confess our sins to the Son of David and find forgiveness in him.

#### **Week 1**

Betrayal • John 13:21-30

When Judas Iscariot comes to the point where he must either listen to Jesus or listen to the devil, he chooses to betray Jesus. When we are tempted by Satan to betray our Lord, we gain strength from our Savior to say, “No” to the devil.

#### **Week 2**

Judgment • Matthew 27:11-26

When Pontius Pilate is called upon by the crowds to make a judgment call about Jesus, his decision not to decide results in the death of Christ. We look to the cross of Christ to make definitive judgment calls in our lives.

#### **Week 3**

Compassion • Luke 22:47-51

When Jesus is taken into custody, he chooses to show compassion to a wounded participant in the arrest. We are called to show compassion, not anger, even to those in our midst whom we might consider our enemies.

#### **Week 4**

Declaration • Luke 22:54-62

When Peter is asked to declare whether or not he knows Jesus, he decides to deny his Savior. When questioned about our Lord, we are called to boldly declare our faith in Christ.

#### **Week 5**

Obedience • Matthew 26:36-46

When Jesus nears the time when he must die for our sins, he asks his Father if the cup might pass from him. But when the time comes, he obeys his Father's will. When we are called upon to follow God's will, we must obey.

#### **Bulletins For The Six-Week Kit:**

Code **CRDP** • Pre-printed bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code **CRD2** • Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code **CRDR** • Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 14"

#### **Maunder Thursday**

Forgiveness • Matthew 26:26-29

When Jesus institutes the first Lord's Supper, he grants forgiveness to his disciples through the bread and wine. When we receive the bread and wine of Communion this day, we receive that forgiveness and in turn forgive others in remembrance of him.

Code **CRD4** • Kit

Code **CRDC** (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDG** (blank) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDM** (blank) • 8.5" x 14" bulletins

## **Good Friday**

Death • John 19:17-30

When Jesus is on the cross, he accepts the power of death upon himself and does not turn away from it. We must face death when it comes and not turn away from it, knowing that his salvation awaits us on the other side.

### **Code CRD5 • Kit**

Code **CRDD** (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDH** (blank) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDN** (blank) • 8.5" x 14" bulletins

## **Easter Sunday**

Life • John 20:1-18

After the risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, she responds by telling the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" We who know that our Redeemer lives must share that news with others.

### **Code CRD6 • Kit**

Code **CRDE** (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDJ** (blank) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code **CRDO** (blank) • 8.5" x 14" bulletins

### **Other Resources:**

Code **CRD1** • Bookmark • 7" x 2 1/2"

Code **CRD7** • Promotional Bulletin Insert

Code **CRD8** • Display Posters • 11" x 17"

Code **PHCRD** • Cloth Banner Suitable For Worship

### **Bible Study Resources:**

Code **CRDS** • At the Crossroads Student Guide

Code **CRDL** • At the Crossroads Leader's Guide



— AT THE —

# CROSSROADS

## A SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

PALM SUNDAY  
NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN NOTICES

### NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a special service for Palm Sunday. In this service we remember that when Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time amid palm branches and praises, he knows the suffering that awaits him there, yet he does not turn back. In the observance of this remarkable day, we come to see as well that though we know suffering is part of being a follower of Christ, we must carry on for him. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with Simon the Zealot and hymns that help us to approach the crossroads of suffering with courage and strength.

### BULLETIN NOTICE

Welcome to this Palm Sunday service. In this service we remember that when Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time amid palm branches and praises, he knows the suffering that awaits him there, yet he does not turn back. In the observance of this remarkable day, we come to see as well that though we know suffering is part of being a follower of Christ, we must carry on for him. Let readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with Simon the Zealot and hymns help you to approach the crossroads of suffering with courage and strength.

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# CROSSROADS

## A SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

PALM SUNDAY: SUFFERING

### COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** of palm branches (purchased by you from [istockphoto.com](http://www.istockphoto.com)) to symbolize the parade of praise is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<http://www.shutterstock.com/pic-386314174/stock-photo-palm-tree-branches-with-blue-sky-background-easter-sunday-good-friday-jesus-christ-religious.html?src=IZ4nU1tPJieoLd0wCC0Vuw-1-0>

- The **Opening Prayer** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☞ Dear Heavenly Father, on this day Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly to suffer and to die and was greeted with branches of palm. Let these branches be for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. May we who carry them follow Christ in the way of the cross which leads to life; through Christ who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

- The **Processional Reading**, John 12:12-15, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** The next day the large crowd that 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 out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation while waving palm branches to the tune Winchester New LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.  
O Savior meek, pursue thy road with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, your vict’ry now begins o’er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
The Father on his sapphire throne awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
Bow your meek head to mortal pain. Then take, O Christ, your pow’r and reign.

- This **Opening Response** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

**C** Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

**P** For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

**C** Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**P** For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

**C** Therefore we give glory to God who raised him up and gave us the promise of salvation. Amen.

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

☐ Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

☐ **Gracious God, we confess our faithless terror at the crossroad of suffering for your sake. We treasure the good life; we cling to the easy life; we fail to hear your call to walk in those ways that might bring us pain and suffering for the sake of others. We often choose to wrap ourselves in our self-made cocoon of personal preservation and seek to escape your call to ways that might put us among the hurting. Forgive our unwillingness to take up the cross marked with the names of the poor and vulnerable. Fill us with the Spirit so that we might overflow with the serving that proclaims your very presence with us.**

☐ I have the honor and privilege, by the grace of God, of announcing to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and free—free to share the steadfast love of God with all.

- A **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune O Mein Jesu, Ich Muss Sterben 87 87 D, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Stricken, smitten and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!  
 ‘Tis the Christ, by man rejected; yes, my soul, ‘tis he, ‘tis he!  
 ‘Tis the long-expected Prophet, David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;  
 Proofs I see sufficient of it: ‘Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear him groaning, was there ever grief like his?  
 Friends through fear his cause disowning, foes insulting his distress;  
 Many hands were raised to wound him, none would intervene to save;  
 But the deepest stroke that pierced him was the stroke that justice gave.

Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost:  
 Christ, the Rock of our salvation, is the name of which we boast;  
 Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
 None shall ever be confounded who on him their hope have built.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 53:1-6, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide

their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Peter 3:13-18, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 12:20-36, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ “Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 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. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*(If possible, construct a crude cross. On it, with red markers, write people’s names—not necessarily people the children might know, but common first names. Or simply refer to a cross or crucifix in the sanctuary.)*

**P** What is this? *(Await answers.)* Why do we have a cross here? What does it help us remember? Right, Jesus carried his cross and he died on a cross for us. He once said that we should carry a cross too. Suppose this was the cross we had to carry. What would your friends say if they saw you carrying the cross? Would some make fun of you? Would some stay away from you? How would you feel carrying this cross around? Of course, that’s not what Jesus means when he asks us to carry the cross. But what do you see on this cross? Yes, it is the names of other people. When we carry the cross, we are not just doing it for ourselves, we are carrying the hurts and needs of others we know. We carry the cross like Jesus did, out of love because we have been loved. Think. Who do you know who is troubled or hurting, someone others make fun of, someone who is different and seems to be alone? How can you help that person carry the cross of their suffering? What can you do to share Jesus’ love with him or her or others like that? Today, as we hear the story of one of Jesus’ disciples, think about how you can carry a cross for someone else. *(Close with an echo prayer asking the Spirit’s help as we help others or ask one of the children to pray.)*

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Ellacombe 76 76 D, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,  
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,  
The victor palm branch waving and chanting clear and loud.  
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state  
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing;  
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heav’n our King.  
Oh, may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice  
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

- If desired, this **Mini Movie** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: [worshiphousemedia.com](http://www.worshiphousemedia.com)) is presented on a screen at this time to highlight the Palm Sunday story:

<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/30077/palm-sunday>

- The **Sermon Dialog with Simon the Zealot** is delivered by the pastor (P) and another reader (R) in the role of Simon the Zealot:

P Crossroads. They are there for all of us. We may move along from day to day easily, walking in the sunshine, enjoying the view, feeling at peace. And then it comes. A crossroad. A choice point. There we stand, frozen to the spot. Which way now? Right? Left? Straight? What waits down each of those choices? Which way does our heart call us to go? Which makes sense? Which is God's way?

The answers aren't easy. A crossroad can bring daunting spiritual pain. And it can bring us to our knees. It can even bring us to destruction.

Today we have an expert on the crossroad that Jesus faced as he moved toward the cross. We have a Simon, a disciple of Jesus who was with him throughout his years of ministry and at the last, as he went toward the cross. This Simon is not Simon Peter. This is Simon, sometimes called the Zealot.

*(Simon enters. He is dressed well or in biblical costume.)*

P Welcome, Simon. I am sure that what you have to share with us will be helpful for us, but tell us, why do they call you Zealot?

R *Zealot? You would probably say rebel or revolutionary. I had joined a group seeking to get rid of the Romans. Some of my group were marked as wanted by the Roman authorities for acts of what you might call terrorism. The rest of us were quieter about our desire to see Rome out of our country and out of our lives.*

P And how were you going about your rebellion?

R *At first, I was not sure how to act, but then I came upon Jesus of Nazareth. Here was one with power and authority, one who could act. I saw him feed thousands. I saw him still a storm. I saw him escape the religious leaders who were lackeys of the Roman government. He kept talking about the coming of the Kingdom of God. I wanted to be in on that kingdom. I thought he could do it.*

P But what about Jesus' words about his path toward suffering and death?

R *I was so sure he was going to overthrow the Romans and establish the new rule of King David, I didn't even hear those things. I thought he was talking in images.*

P How could you have missed what he was saying?

R *I was not alone. Most of his disciples were hoping for a new ruler and thought Jesus could be that ruler. Look at what we were seeing. Jesus was immensely popular. People flocked to him. Thousands sought him out. His name was on every lip when he raised Lazarus. Even Greeks, foreigners were attracted to him. Then he did exactly what we thought he should do, he paraded into Jerusalem on a donkey, just like the*

Tune..... Winchester New LM

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves, a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom, both in common time (C) and the key of B-flat major (two flats). The treble staff begins with a first-measure rest followed by a quarter rest, then a series of quarter notes and chords. The bass staff also begins with a first-measure rest followed by a quarter rest, then a series of quarter notes and chords. A large, faint watermark reading 'Creative Communications Sample' is overlaid diagonally across the entire page, including this system.

The second system of the musical score continues from the first system, also consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) in common time and B-flat major. The treble staff begins with a first-measure rest followed by a quarter rest, then a series of quarter notes and chords. The bass staff also begins with a first-measure rest followed by a quarter rest, then a series of quarter notes and chords. A large, faint watermark reading 'Creative Communications Sample' is overlaid diagonally across the entire page, including this system.



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O Savior meek, pursue thy road with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, your vict'ry now begins o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
The Father on his sapphire throne awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
Bow your meek head to mortal pain. Then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign.

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