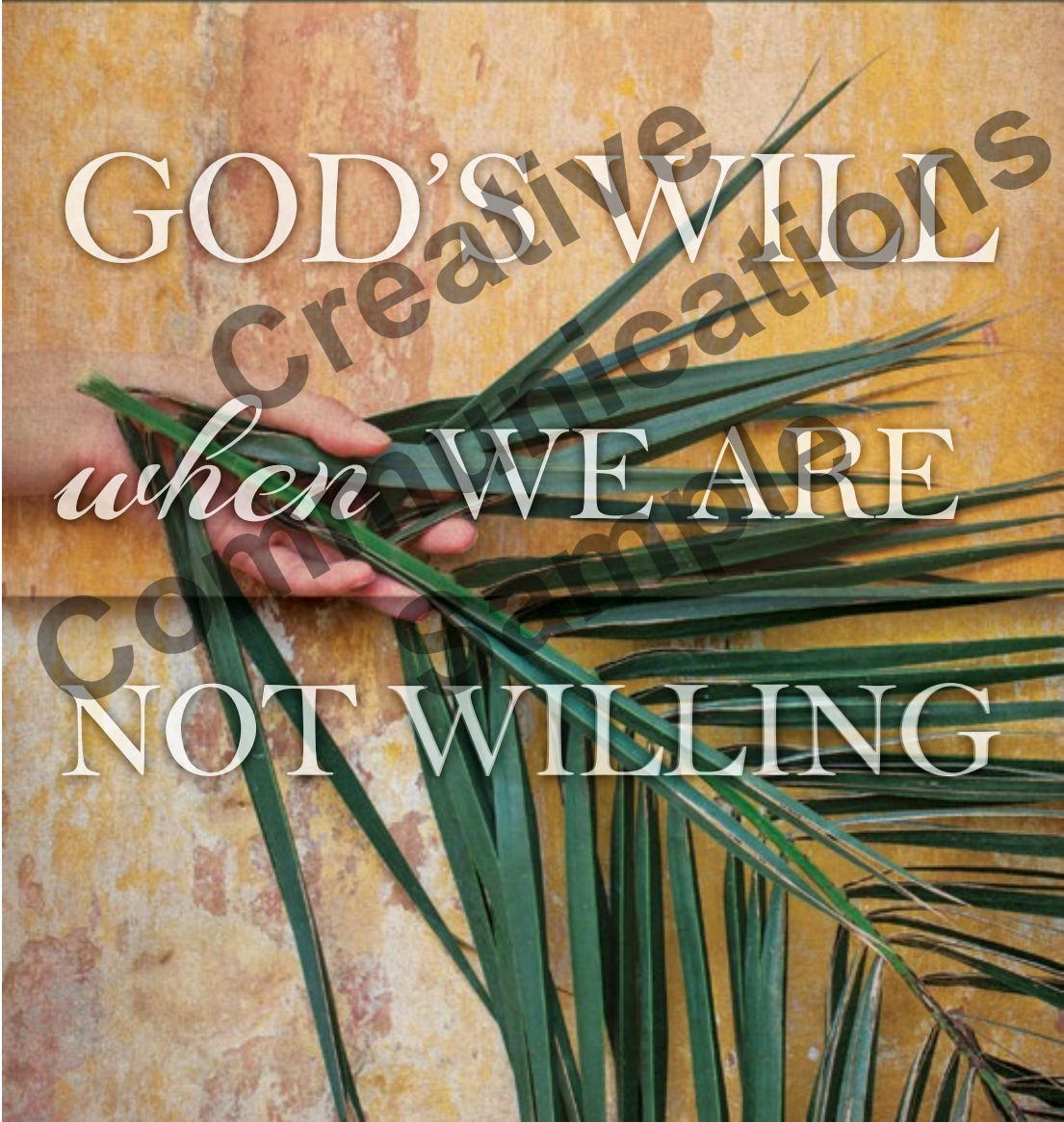




THY WILL  
BE DONE



GOD'S WILL  
*when* WE ARE  
NOT WILLING

WORSHIP KIT

**Creative  
Communications  
Sample**

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THY WILL BE DONE

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GOD'S WILL *when*  
WE ARE NOT WILLING

A SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

WORSHIP KIT

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THY WILL BE DONE

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# GOD'S WILL *when* WE ARE NOT WILLING

A SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

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By Justin Rossow. Children's message and prayers by Mark Zimmermann. Art and design: Lindsay Taylor. © 2018 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Purchase of this kit gives the purchaser the copyright release to use the material in any format for use in worship.

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THY WILL BE DONE

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# GOD'S WILL *when* WE ARE NOT WILLING

A SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

## ABOUT "THY WILL BE DONE"

"Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week. Written by Rev. Justin Rossow, each service in the series focuses on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Biblical characters are used as insightful reference points each week to guide us in following our Lord more nearly day by day.

For each service the kit contains • sample bulletins with complete orders of service • monolog sermons (in character role) or outlines for a regular sermon • children's message • prayers • music for the accompanist

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Jeff Greunke for excellent contemporary music selections and worship flow support. Thanks to Rev. Richard Rossow for thinking through creative worship and helping shape the final product. Thanks to Roxanne Smith for reading and praying all of the prayers and making substantive comments and encouragement. Thanks to Rev. Matt Hein for camaraderie and an excellent Palm Sunday sermon. Thanks to Conrad Gempf for creative writing and creative editing of midweek monologs. And special thanks to St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, MI, who were the first to worship with this Lenten material.

# 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 **TWY** (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

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

Code **TWX** (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 **????U**

### **Ash Wednesday**

God's Will and God's Promise • Abraham and Isaac

By faith, Abraham trusted the will of God when he promised that a son would be born to him. God's will was done when that son, Isaac, was born, and God's will was done when his Son, Jesus, came into the world to redeem his people.

### **Week 1**

God's Will and My Inadequacy • Moses

At first, Moses did not think he could free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. But God gave him confidence to set his people free. In Lent we remember that God sent his Son to do his will and set all people free from the slavery of sin.

### **Week 2**

God's Will and My Dreams • David

Anointed by God to rule in Israel, King David followed God's will to shepherd his people, but often failed to live up to God's dream for him. We welcome the Good Shepherd into our lives who fulfills God's dream perfectly to gather his wandering sheep into the sheepfold of heaven.

### **Week 3**

#### **God's Will and My Identity • Mary**

In humility, Mary dutifully accepted the role God had given her to become the mother of our Savior. That Son would later accept his role, faithfully following the path his Father had in mind for him to save us all.

### **Week 4**

#### **God's Will and My Worldview • Paul**

On the road to Damascus, Paul had his worldview turned upside down when God called him to preach the name of the Christ he had been persecuting. We follow God's will by putting the crucified Christ at the center of our worldview.

### **Week 5**

#### **God's Will and My Response • Lydia**

Lydia followed the will of God by responding in faith and hospitality when the Gospel message of Christ's sacrifice was preached to her. We follow the will of God by responding in love and service to one another in return for what Christ has done for us.

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

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

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

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

#### **Holy Week Services To Complete The Series:**

Those who desire may supplement this series with other services that continue the series format and theme. Each is ordered separately and includes all the Leader's Guide features described above, except the CD.

Or, order all four service kits together. As a bonus, orders for all four kits include a CD-ROM (Mac/PC) with text of services and of bulletins in .rtf (rich text format). All four kits • Code **TW9**

### **Maundy Thursday**

#### **God's Will and Joyful Service**

Christ asks his disciples to wash one another's feet, as he washed theirs, for the joy that was set before him. Serving one another with joy is a tribute to him who is the Servant of All.

**Code TW5 • Kit**

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

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

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

**Good Friday**

God’s Will Is Done

On the cross Christ followed through with the will of God, crying out, “It is finished” as he breathed his last. This ultimate sacrifice serves as a model to look at our lives as a holy sacrifice to him.

**Code TW6 • Kit**

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

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

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

**Easter Sunday**

God’s Will for the New Creation

When Christ rose from the tomb, he opened the door to a new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. God’s will for us as Easter people is to fix our eyes on the new creation of perfect paradise prepared for us in heaven.

**Code TW7 • Kit**

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

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

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



**You can also order the Ash Wednesday service alone:**

**Ash Wednesday**

God's Will and God's Promise • Abraham and Isaac

By faith, Abraham trusted the will of God when he promised that a son would be born to him. God's will was done when that son, Isaac, was born, and God's will was done when his Son, Jesus, came into the world to redeem his people.

**Code TW4 • Kit**

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

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

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

**Other Resources:**

Code **TWU1** • Bookmark • 7" x 2-1/2"

Code **TWB7** • Promotional Bulletin Insert

Code **TW8** • Display Posters • 11" x 17"

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

**Bible Study Resources:**

Code **TWSG** • Thy Will Be Done Student Guide

Code **TWLG** • Thy Will Be Done Leader's Guide

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THY WILL BE DONE

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# GOD'S WILL *when* WE ARE NOT WILLING

A SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

## NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Palm Sunday. In this service we remember that we are not always willing to do what God asks of us, but in his Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, Christ reveals to us that even tough roads are worth traversing for the good of the Kingdom.

## BULLETIN NOTICE

In this service for Palm Sunday, we remember that we are not always willing to do what God asks of us, but in his Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, Christ reveals to us that even tough roads are worth traversing for the good of the Kingdom.

Now lead us out in peace, O Lord; we follow in your train.  
Lead on to vict'ry yet unseen, for all who bear your name.  
Under the shelter of your wing we rest, secure and free;  
So gather all your people, Lord, for all eternity.

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Sample**

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THY WILL BE DONE

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# GOD'S WILL *when* WE ARE NOT WILLING

A SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

## COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** 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:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/palm-branch-woman-hand-beautiful-old-611087057>

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*“How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.” Luke 13:34*

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

☞ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ Amen.

- The **Palm Sunday Reading**, Luke 19:37-41, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ 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, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

- The **Processional Hymn** is sung by the congregation while waving palm branches, with children and/or worship leaders processing in waving palm branches, if desired, according to local custom, 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 men and angels 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.  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

- The **Palm Sunday Litany**, from Psalm 118, is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

Ⓟ The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone. Hosanna!

Ⓒ **Hosanna in the highest!**

Ⓟ The LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Hosanna!

Ⓒ **Hosanna in the highest!**

Ⓟ This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Hosanna!

**C Hosanna in the highest!**

**P** O LORD, save us. Hosanna!

**C Hosanna in the highest!**

**P** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. Hosanna!

**C Hosanna in the highest!**

**P** The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. Hosanna!

**C Hosanna in the highest!**

**P** You are my God, and I will give you thanks. Hosanna!

**C Hosanna in the highest!**

**P** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. Hosanna!

**C Hosanna in the highest!**

**P** His love endures forever. Hosanna!

**C Hosanna in the highest!**

- The **Confession and Absolution** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Meinen Jesum Lass' Ich Nicht* (Darmstadt) 78 78 77 with a spoken response by the pastor:

Jesus sinners doth receive; oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live and from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve—Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; here their ills have perfect healing  
Who with humble hearts believe—Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray no true shepherd e'er forsaketh:  
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh  
In his arms that they may live—Jesus sinners doth receive.

Come, ye sinners, one and all, come, accept his invitation;  
Come, obey his gracious call, come and take his free salvation!  
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to thee with a penitent confession;  
Savior, mercy show to me; grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

- ☐ Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the way to the cross, there to forgive your sins through his innocent suffering and death. Therefore, I announce to you the good news that your sins are forever forgiven in the name of Jesus, who came to save us.

Oh, how blest it is to know; were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow by thy blood and bitter Passion:  
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

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

- ☐ Hosanna! Save us! Today I join my praise to that joyful Palm Sunday procession! But I also see you weeping, Jesus, even as you enter your capital city as king. So I join my grief to yours: grief over my unwillingness to be gathered under your wing. King Jesus, turn my heart away from my own agenda for your rule, and let your kingdom come to me in grace this day. Your will be done. Amen.

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

*Note: a picture of a little chick*

- ☐ Hello, boys and girls. Today is Palm Sunday and on this day Jesus said we were like little chicks, like this one. (*Hold up the picture of the little chick.*) If you have ever seen a little chick, then you know that they like to walk this way and that and peck at one thing over there and then another thing over here. They can be very confused and scattered.

Jesus said we can be like that sometimes—going this way and that, not following directions and being very confused and scattered. We do that when we don't listen to God, when we want to do our own thing, when we decide to listen to someone else to lead us instead of God.

But Jesus reminds us that he is like a hen who is seeking to gather all her little chicks under her wing. He is always there, calling us back to shelter in safety under him and to be with our fellow chicks.

We find shelter when we come close to him in prayer. We gather to be with our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith when we come to worship in church together. That is how we find our way.

Without Jesus, we are lost, but with Jesus, we are found and are forever kept under his care. Let us pray:

Thank you, dear Jesus, for finding us when we were lost in our sins. Keep us safe in your care all the days of our life under the shadow of your cross. Amen.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 65:1-3, 17-19, 24, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, “Here I am, here I am,” to a nation that was not called by my name. I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks. ... For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ... Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

- The **Epistle Reading**, Philippians 2:1-11, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Luke 13:31-35, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her



brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation 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! Thy triumph now begin o’er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! The angel armies of the sky  
Look down with sad and wond’ring eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.

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

Ride on, ride on, in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, thy pow’r and reign.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

#### Introduction

- Ⓟ How often have we been here with Jesus on Palm Sunday? We join, again, with the whole crowd of disciples and proclaim, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.” With that crowd we join our voices to proclaim “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest,” as we echo the message of the angels who first sang those words at Jesus’ birth. Matthew gives us hosannas, John gives us palm branches, and Luke takes us back to the birth of the King. How often we’ve been here with King Jesus as he comes to Jerusalem to be crowned with thorns and to ascend the throne of the cross where he brings us into salvation and peace.

#### Oops (Upset the Equilibrium)

Many of us have been here so often that the details of the scene blur and blend from one gospel to another. But if you pay attention to the details Luke gives, you may have noticed something that seems out of place. With the crowd of disciples following and praising, Jesus comes near Jerusalem where he stops and weeps. He weeps for good reason. He knows what is coming for this city and her people who have so often rejected God’s will.

Judgment is coming and no stone will be left unturned when the Romans come to destroy Jerusalem in AD 70, lay waste to the temple of God, and decimate His people. So Jesus weeps.

But this is not the first time he has grieved for God's people and this city.

Sometime before Palm Sunday, along his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus points to his coming death and speaks this lament: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

It's striking, then, that on the day when Jesus finally comes to Jerusalem and these words of praise ring out, we find ourselves caught up in praise while Jesus weeps.

#### Ugh 1.0 (Analyzing the Discrepancy: Why does Jesus weep?)

This lament, like Jesus' tears as he comes near Jerusalem, is about God's will and his people's unwillingness to live in his salvation and peace. To help us understand his grief, Jesus takes us into the world of—chickens. That's right, chickens.

I remember going to my grandpa's farm as a child and being fascinated by his chickens, especially at this time of year when the sound of peeping chicks rang out across the barnyard. It didn't take much searching before we would find a hen surrounded by a brood of little yellow creatures. Some followed mommy while others strayed this way and that. She would scratch and peck the ground and they would do the same. She would go for water and, for the most part, the chicks would follow. But there were always a few feathered balls of yellow that would stray too far away.

Momma hen would walk over to them and "gather" them back to herself. If we got too close, we learned quickly not to stand between momma hen and her chicks. And when she knew they needed shelter or protection, she would raise her wings, to her own discomfort, and draw them all beneath herself where they were covered and safe. How often she would patiently repeat this process of teaching, nurturing, protecting and gathering her brood. How often her brood would wander off to explore and get into trouble. How did momma hen have the will to repeat that process yet again when the will of her chicks was so often opposed to her own?

What an appropriate picture Jesus uses to speak of Jerusalem and his own people. How often Jesus had experienced them as a brood of unwilling chicks! He had ushered in the gracious reign of God, the activity of the King. He had healed the lame, fed the hungry, driven out demons, calmed storms and raised the dead. He brought peace to his people.

The very city whose name contains the word *peace* (*salem*), should have seen, heard and understood the things that have to do with peace. God had come to gather them into his shalom by the visitation of his Son, but they kept on questioning, kept on doubting and kept on opposing the ministry of Jesus. In doing so they were directly opposing the will of their God

Tune..... Ellecombe 76 76 D

The image displays a piano accompaniment for the tune 'Ellecombe 76 76 D'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The first system starts at measure 1. The second system starts at measure 6. The third system starts at measure 11. The fourth system starts at measure 16. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Creative Communications Sample' is overlaid across the middle of the page.

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O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

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THY WILL BE DONE

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# GOD'S WILL *when* WE ARE NOT WILLING

A SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

## CONTEMPORARY MUSIC SONG SUGGESTIONS

- The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

“Gathering Song” by Eoghan Heaslip

“Hide Me in the Shelter” by Cheryl Thomas and Scott Brenner

“Living Under the Shadow of Your Wing” by Bob Silvester and David J. Hadden

“Thy Will” by Hillary Scott

“You Are My All in All” by Dennis Jernigan

“Your Love Never Fails” by Anthony Skinner and Chris McClarney

“Oceans (Where Feet May Fall)” by Joel Houston, Matt Crocker and Saloman Ligthelm