

A hand holding a palm frond against a textured yellow and white background. The background has a mottled, aged appearance with various shades of yellow, orange, and white. The palm frond is green and has several long, narrow leaves. The hand is visible at the bottom left, holding the base of the frond.

SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

GUIDED

to the

CROSS

**GUIDED TO
HUMILITY**

SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

GUIDED *to the* CROSS

GUIDED TO HUMILITY

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:

[shutterstock.com/image-photo/cross-palm-on-wooden-white-background-1312668722](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/cross-palm-on-wooden-white-background-1312668722)

- 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:

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:10

- 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 Valet Will Ich Dir Geben 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:

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessèd One.

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

The company of angels is praising you on high,
And we with all creation in chorus make reply.

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, our good and gracious King.

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** (Psalm 24:7-10; Zechariah 9:9; Mark 11:9) are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

C **The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

C **The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

P 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.

C **Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

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

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, we are called to humble ourselves and to serve one another in love, but instead, we become puffed up with pride. We look on others as less important than ourselves. We do not humble ourselves before your Word, and we do not walk in the way of love. Have mercy on us, and forgive us.**

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus humbled himself, and on the cross, he suffered in our place the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins. For his sake God forgives us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Behold our King has come, righteous and humble, bringing salvation to us!**

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

P Lord Jesus, you are the King of glory, yet you entered Jerusalem in humble majesty, to bring to us salvation. During this Holy Week, as we follow your final path to the cross, lead us in humility and meekness. Help us to put the needs of others ahead of our own and to walk in love, forgiving one another as we have been forgiven. Jesus, humble King, we hail you as our Lord and Savior. You are the King of glory. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Amen.

- The **Hymn of Praise** 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!

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

Needed: a palm branch (real or paper) for each child

P Today is the day we call Palm Sunday. We are remembering the day that Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem to begin the last week of his earthly work. At the end of this week, we will worship on Good Friday to remember the day Jesus died on the cross. Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. His disciples and all of the people were excited. They waved palm branches like flags at a parade! Let’s wave our palm branches! (*Children wave branches.*) The people thought that Jesus was coming as a mighty king. They wanted him to lead a fight against the Roman army that had taken over their city and their country. They shouted, “Hosanna!” That word means, “Save us now!” Let’s wave our palm branches and say, “Save us now!” (*Children wave branches and repeat the words.*)

But Jesus did not come to be that kind of king. Jesus came as our humble King. He came to win a battle, but it was not a fight against an army. Jesus came to fight against sin, death and the devil. How did our King Jesus fight that battle? Do you know? (*Let children answer.*) Jesus fought—and won!—the battle by dying on the cross. Then he rose from the dead. He died and came alive again to save us from sin, death and the devil. Jesus is the King of kings. Let’s wave our branches and shout “Hosanna! Save us now!” to our great King. (*Wave branches and shout “Hosanna! Save us now!”*)

Let’s pray: Jesus, you are the King of glory. You are our King. Thank you for dying on the cross to save us. Amen.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Zechariah 9:9-12, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ 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. 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. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

- The **Epistle Reading**, James 4:7-10, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Mark 11:1-10, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Ich Will Dich Lieben 98 98 86, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Thee will I love, my strength, my tower;
Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.
Thee will I love with all my power,
With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.
Thee will I love, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.

I thank thee, Jesus, Sun from heaven,
Whose radiance hath brought light to me;
I thank thee, who hast richly given
All that could make me glad and free;
I thank thee that my soul is healed
By what thy lips revealed.

O keep me watchful, then, and humble;
Permit me nevermore to stray.
Uphold me when my feet would stumble,
And keep me on the narrow way.
Fill all my nature with thy light,
O Radiance strong and bright!

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

P Grace, mercy and peace to you, my dear Christian friends. Welcome to Palm Sunday. Welcome to Holy Week, and welcome to this last part of our journey being guided to the cross of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Palm Sunday seems to be all about this parade into Jerusalem, doesn't it? With all the waving of palms and the shouts of "Hosanna!" and the declarations of "Blessed is he." Cloaks are placed on the road. There seems to be a lot of celebration over the entrance of Jesus into the holy city.

But then we look at what Jesus is riding on. A donkey. A donkey? It does not seem right. It doesn't seem to fit. If this is a celebration, a happy parade, a victory parade, then shouldn't Jesus be riding on a big white horse? Shouldn't he be on a large and fancy float tossing out handfuls of candy and waving and smiling?