



Palm Sunday

And on This Path MV 8

*And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!*

*So enter in the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!*

Announcements

Dear friends in Christ,
during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery.
On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph.

The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise,
but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death.

Today we greet him as our King,

although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross.

We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection
by way of the dark road of suffering and death.

United with him in his suffering on the cross,
may we share his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you give us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All Glory, Laud, and Honour CP 181

*All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed one.
All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*The company of angels are praising thee on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.
All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.
All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*To thee before thy Passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted our melody we raise.
All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.*

*All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, almighty God,

for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying,
Hosanna in the highest.

**May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ and follow him in the way that
leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and
forever. Amen**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Refrain



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

On repeat

Give thanks to the Lord who is good;

the mercy of the Lord endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim,

"The mercy of the Lord endures for ever."

Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

"This is the gate of the Lord;

those who are righteous may enter."

I will give thanks to the Lord who answered me

and has become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing,

and it is marvellous in our eyes. R

On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna!

Lord, send us now success.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;

we bless you from the house of the Lord.

God is the Lord and has shined upon us;

form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

“You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.”

Give thanks to the Lord who is good;

the mercy of the Lord endures for ever. RR

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Listen for God’s Word. **Our hearts are open.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

We preach Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

God forbid that we should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

Don't Be Afraid MV 90

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

Mark 15:1-39

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from

the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

Sermon

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance;

when they see me in the street they avoid me.

I am forgotten like a corpse, out of mind;

I am as useless as a broken pot.

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.

I have said, "You are my God."

My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

Make your face to shine upon your servant,

and in your loving-kindness save me."

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

With faith and love and in union with Christ, let us offer our prayers before the throne of grace, saying, 'God of the deep, hear our prayer.'

Have mercy on your people, for whom your Son laid down his life.

God of the deep, hear our prayer.

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations, and have pity on those torn apart by division.

God of the deep, hear our prayer.

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake, and deliver them from evil.

God of the deep, hear our prayer.

Look in mercy upon all who suffer, and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation.

God of the deep, hear our prayer.

Bring comfort to the dying, and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory.

God of the deep, hear our prayer.

Give rest to the departed and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting.

God of the deep, hear our prayer.

Please give voice to your own intercessions and prayers.

Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember

- *the persecuted Church;*
- *the oppressed peoples of the world;*
- *all who are lonely;*
- *all who are near to death and*
- *all who are facing loss.*

Sovereign God, you have established your rule over the human heart, not by force but by the servant example of Jesus Christ. Move us by your Spirit to join the joyful procession of those who confess Christ Jesus with their tongues and praise him with their lives. **Amen.**

Into Jerusalem Jesus Rode CP 183

***Into Jerusalem Jesus rode, triumphant king acclaimed;
palm branches spread to honour his way, garments laid down as tokens of praise;
shouts of "Hosanna" surged through the throng into Jerusalem.***

***Within Jerusalem Jesus stood masquerade king reviled:
thorns made a crown (grim satire of truth), robe like a wound thrown over his back:
echoes of "Crucify" filled the air within Jerusalem.***

***Outside Jerusalem Jesus hung, crucified King despised;
wood formed a cross suspending his life, soldiers cast lots to deal out his clothes;
his lonely cries: "My God"; "It is done" outside Jerusalem.***

Standing at the foot of the cross and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High CP 628 (1, 2, 4, 5 & 7)

***O love, how deep, how broad, how high! It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortal's sake.***

***God sent no angel to our race, of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame for us, and to this lost world came.***

***For us he prayed, for us he taught, for us his daily works he wrought;
by words and signs, and actions, thus still seeking not himself but us.***

***For us by wickedness betrayed, scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death; for us at length gave up his breath.***

***To God whose boundless love has won salvation for us through the Son,
to God the Father, glory be both now and through eternity.***

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross, set us free to serve with him in joy.

Amen.

**[Readings for next Sunday – April 4, 2021](#)
Easter Sunday**

**[Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:14-24;](#)
[1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8](#)**