

Palm Sunday

Intergenerational Song: Palm Sunday

Here's a "new" song for Palm Sunday from Paul Wigmore/Jubilate Hymns. The tune is the traditional song "Sing Hosanna" ("Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning...") which many congregations will already know.

There's a Man Riding In On a Donkey

There's a man riding in on a donkey,
there's a man, and they say he's king!
And the palm leaves are waving a welcome
and the voices of the people sing:
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to the King!

Why a king riding in on a donkey?
Why a king wearing no fine crown?
Where the drums? Where the high-sounding cymbals
if a king is riding into town?
Sing hosanna . . .

Hear the voice of the King on a donkey!
Hear the joy of the news he brings!
He is Jesus, the Son of the Highest.
He is Jesus and the King of kings!
Sing hosanna . . .

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<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/03/intergenerational-song-palm-sunday.html>

Blessing of the Palms

Here's a prayer of blessing on the palm branches from Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor at First Congregational United Church in Manhattan, Kansas.

She writes: *This was used after a children's sermon about how the Palm Sunday parade can be interpreted as a parade, protest, funeral procession (idea borrowed from Fred Craddock). Then we blessed our palms before our procession.*"

Blessing of the Palms

Bless these parade palms, O God of Celebration.
May they remind us of the simple joys of living.
May we remember the excitement that comes with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms, O God of Justice.
May they remind us that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms, O God of Comfort.
May they remind us of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks for the parade, the protest, the processional.
Guide our steps through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!" Amen.

~ written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2018/03/blessing-of-palms.html>

Closing Litany for Palm Sunday

Here's a closing litany for Palm/Passion Sunday, written by Rev Gord and posted on *Worship Offerings*.

Sending Litany for Palm Sunday

(inspired by Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-40; John 12:12-19)

We have gathered with the crowds crying Hosanna!

**Because even if we were silent
the stones themselves would have called out.**

We have shared the hope for a world about to be changed,
and then it changed.

We have walked with another crowd.

One that called words of scorn and condemnation.

And now we follow the crowd as it leads out to the cross,
and yet even as the world grows dark,
we cannot lose hope.

Because God is with us.

God will be with us.

Whatever happens.

We are not alone.

And so we watch the crowd and we follow...

~ posted by Rev Gord on his blog, **Worship Offerings**. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/04/closing-litany-for-palm-sunday.html>

A Hosanna Litany

Here's a litany for Palm/Passion Sunday from *The Open Church* website.

Palm Sunday Litany

The streets were crowded.

A parade mood filled the air.

Shouts came from deep in the heart.

Hosanna. Save us.

Save us from lukewarm faith.

Hosanna. Save us.

Save us from callous indifference.

Hosanna. Save us.

Save us from paltry hopes and petty dreams.

Hosanna. Save us.

Save us from unquenchable greed.

Hosanna. Save us.

Save us from lazy habits and faithless commitments.

Hosanna. Save us.

Save us from soft-mindedness and hard-heartedness.

Hosanna. Save us.

We cry from the depth of our hearts and the very pit of our souls.

Hosanna. Save us. Save us now.

~ posted on **The Open Church** website. <http://www.theopenchurchmd.org/1/archives/03-2012/1.html>
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/03/a-hosanna-litany.html>

Good Friday

BIDDING PRAYER

The assembly kneels or sits.

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our bishop/s, for our pastor/s, and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Following holy communion the service may end with the Procession of the Cross

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward.

The following dialogue is spoken as the procession begins.

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

The dialogue is spoken a second time at the midpoint of the procession.

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

The dialogue is spoken a third time at the end of the procession.

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

The assembly may be seated.

Text expressing adoration of the crucified Christ, such as "O my people, O my church" (the solemn reproaches) and "We glory in your cross," may be sung or said.

During this time, or at the end of the service, worshipers may come to the large cross to make a sign of reverence. Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, or touching it.

SOLEMN REPROACHES

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you?

Answer me. I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit; I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed; I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

After a brief silence, the presiding minister continues.

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

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All stand and sing, proclaiming the triumph of the cross.

HYMN *There in God's Garden ELW 342 vs. 1, 4, 6*

ALL DEPART IN SILENCE

If they have not done so earlier, worshipers may reverence the cross before they depart.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

A "Reconciling in Christ" congregation

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http://www.faithlutheranyucaipa.org/Bulletin_Good_Friday_Passion_2015.pdf

Easter Sunrise Service

Litany of the Dawn

When the world was young
at that first sunrise
and the new light
held a promise
of new days
and fresh mornings
The Word spoke...

...When the Word spoke
and creation sparked
and the alleluias unfolded
the dawn was set free...

...When the dawn was set free
the trees clapped hands
and mountains bowed
and the birds sang a new song
fresh every morning...

...Fresh every morning
the day holds a hope
that this day is God's
and this day holds the promise
and this day is a new beginning...

...A new beginning
is the song of the morning
that takes the shadows of night
and paints them gold and green
for the earth rejoices...

...The earth rejoices
for stones have rolled
and tombs have been empties
and angels are whispering
and death has been conquered...

...Death has been conquered
and resurrection
has left footprints in the dew
that tell us
he has gone ahead of us
he is not among the dead
he is not here...

~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on the
New Kilpatrick Parish Church website.
<https://www.nkchurch.org.uk/original-liturgy>
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search?q=easter+sunrise>