

SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday
KING



Maundy Thursday
SERVANT



Good Friday
SAVIOR



Easter Sunday
REDEEMER

SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

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SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK PALM SUNDAY: KING

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/holy-week-lent-palm-sunday-good-2412557075](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/holy-week-lent-palm-sunday-good-2412557075)

- 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:

I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.
John 15:15

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. And, so, we begin our Palm Sunday worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

C **For his steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 118:1)**

P Out of my distress I called on the LORD;

C **The LORD answered me and set me free. (Psalm 118:5)**

P The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.

C **What can man do to me? (Psalm 118:6)**

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

C **We bless you from the house of the LORD. (Psalm 118:26)**

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

C **For his steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 118:29)**

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation 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 Blessed 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 **Confession and Forgiveness** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Save us, King Jesus, from all sin and condemnation that threatens to cut us off from friendship with you. Hear us now as we confess our sins and receive your forgiveness.

C **We have wrongly sought to save ourselves through our own strength and deeds, through our own efforts and power.**

P We have wrongly assumed that we rule over our own lives and control all things.

C **We have lorded our power and love, words and deeds over others rather than loving our neighbors as ourselves.**

P We have failed to protect those under our care and cared more for ourselves than anyone else.

C **We have departed from the kingdom of God and become ensnared by sin, death and the devil.**

P We have traded in King Jesus for all sorts of idols and false gods.

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

(Please silently reflect on the fact that King Jesus loves and forgives us all the same despite our sin and rebellion.)

P Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Your Friend and King—Jesus—has not forsaken you on account of your sin. Rather, your Friend and King forgives you and welcomes you into his kingdom through faith. Friends, your hope and joy, your Savior and Lord, comes to you righteous and having salvation. By the promise and power of King Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C **What a friend we have in Jesus!**

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

☐ Lord Jesus, our King and Friend, enter into our midst, and enter into our hearts just as you entered into Jerusalem on that very first Palm Sunday. Grant us your Holy Spirit so that we might be humble and lowly in heart and always ready to receive you as our King. We pray this in your name. Amen.

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

“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 19:38)

☐ Have you ever been to a surprise party? Maybe you have, or maybe you haven’t. Either way, a surprise party is when some friends prepare a party for a special person—but they keep it a secret until the moment that the person walks into the room. Right when that special person walks in the room, everyone shouts, “Surprise!”

Today is Palm Sunday. Today marks the beginning of Holy Week. We celebrate today because Jesus did something very special on the first Palm Sunday: Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a colt, or a young donkey. As you know, Jesus is a very special person—he is the Son of God. Jesus is the King of Kings, Lord of Lords and God With Us.

As King Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, his friends wanted to throw something of a surprise party for him. But they did not have much time to prepare. So, this is what they did: Scripture tells us, “As he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road” (Luke 19:36). Scripture also tells us, “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!” (John 12:13)

The friends of Jesus were so excited to celebrate him, they took whatever they had on hand—coats and palm branches—and they used them to create a party. Instead of shouting, “Surprise!” they shouted “Hosanna!” (which means “God save us!”)

All of this happened because the people knew what a special King—and what a special Friend—they had in Jesus. Today, we take part in this celebration for Jesus. When we waved palm branches and shouted “Hosanna!” at the beginning of the service, we were joining with all the other friends of Jesus to celebrate what a Friend we have in him. Jesus loves us. He saves us from our sin. And he lives for us so that we can live with him. Amen.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Zechariah 9:9-11, 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.

- The **Epistle Reading**, Hebrews 12:1-2, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Luke 19:28-40, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. 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 **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 your road with palms and scattered garments strowed.

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

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

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.

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

☐ When you were a child, did you ever play the game “King of the Hill”? The rules for this game are painfully simple: Designate a certain area as the “hill.” This can be a mound or a platform or a pile of snow. The person on top of the hill is king. Everyone else has one goal: Try to dethrone the king. Push the king off. Pull the king off. Wrestle the king from atop the hill so that you can become king. (To be certain, this is a pretty dangerous game and there are far safer games to play. It is hard to imagine someone getting a concussion playing with Legos or reading a book.)

People have been playing “King of the Hill” for a very, very long time. In fact, the painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder depicted children playing this game in the 1500s. His painting *Children's Games* shows some children playing this game. And there is good reason to believe that this game did not get its start in the Renaissance or Middle Ages—who knows how long children have been playing “King of the Hill”? For generations and generations, self-proclaimed kings of the hill have been pushing everyone else off, fighting to the top and fighting to stay on the top.

In our Gospel reading for this Palm Sunday, we hear about a king—King Jesus. However, this King did not fight to stay on top of the hill. Rather, King Jesus revealed what kind of King he is by coming down from the hill in peace and humility, friendship and love. The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus was atop the “mount that is called Olivet” (Luke 19:29). At his request, some of the disciples went and got a colt for Jesus. All was ready for this King to come down from the hill.

And this is exactly what Jesus did: “throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. 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!” (Luke 19:35-38).

King Jesus came down off the hill in order to enter into Jerusalem. Our friend—and what a King he is—came down from the hill with peace and humility, friendship and love so that he could enter into the final days before his death on the cross.

As we hear these words, there are several things that we should notice. First, there are the people—“the whole multitude of his disciples.” (Luke 19:37). Notice that they are praising and celebrating Jesus. Their eyes are fixed on Jesus. They are looking at him. They are hoping in him. They are waving palm branches and laying their coats on the road in honor of him. And we know from Scripture what they are saying: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (Luke 19:38)

The crowds are praising Jesus with the words of Psalm 118: “Save us, we pray, O LORD... Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD” (Psalm 118:25, 26). Their praise for Jesus could not get any higher. Their celebration for Jesus could not get any greater. The adoration was at an all-time high. Adoring eyes were on him, palm branches were waving, coats were lining the road. There was praise and celebration for King Jesus coming into Jerusalem.

How did Jesus respond? What was his response to this praise and adoration? How did he react to all the celebration and the coats on the road? Did he step off the colt and crown himself “King of the Hill”? Did he veer to the left or to the right or take a detour from where he was heading? Nope. Jesus did none of that. He was not persuaded by their shouts of “Hosanna.” King Jesus looked straight ahead. Jesus remained steadfast in the midst of praise and adoration.

Earlier in the Gospel of Luke, we hear that as his crucifixion drew near, “[Jesus] set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). We see him doing just that here. While everyone else was looking at Jesus, King Jesus was looking ahead. While everyone else was praising and celebrating him as the Messiah, Jesus focused on what was next: Our King was ready to overthrow sin, death and the devil through the cross and the empty tomb.

This is where Jesus was heading in the midst of this triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Rather than being distracted by the crowds of people ready to make him an earthly king, Jesus set his sights on something else. You could even say that Jesus was looking straight at what was ahead of him. You see, Luke tells us that Jesus was coming from Bethany to Jerusalem (Luke 19:29). That means he was coming from the east and heading into the eastern edge of Jerusalem. He would have likely entered in through what is known as the Golden Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem.