

# Palm Sunday: God's Will When We Are Not

## Invocation

We gather today in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Palm Sunday Reading, Luke 19:37-41

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.”

## Gathering Song: All Glory Laud and Honor

All glory, laud, and honor 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

To Thee, before Thy passion they sang their hymns of praise  
To Thee, now high exalted our melody we raise  
Thou didst accept their praises, accept the love we bring  
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King

## Welcome & Announcements

- Confirmation – waited a whole year – momentous day for them and all of us!
- Start of Holy week – no Wednesday, Thursday 7/Kirkebo, Friday 7/Nora, Sunday 9/Kirkebo
- Please continue to support the congregations financially – hard with not being together for so long to keep on top of everything so offering can be brought in person, done on-line or mailed into the office.
- Reach out to Pastor or the church office if you need anything
- Food Shelf open Thursdays from 5-7 at Kirkebo in Perley

## Palm Sunday Litany

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

C **Hosanna in the highest!**

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

C **Hosanna in the highest!**

P 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!**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. Amen

God hears us when we cry and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. Fountain of living water,

**C pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

L Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, our sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. Amen.

### **Prayer of the Day**

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

### **Children's Message -**

As you may know, the fox and the hen are natural enemies. I remember, as a child, reading a story called "The Fox and the Little Hen". In the story, Papa Fox sneaked up quietly behind the

little then, grabbed her, and put her into his bag. Then he quickly ran off down the hill toward his home to eat some chicken dinner. Inside the fox's bag, the little hen remembered that she had some scissors in her pocket. So, when the fox stopped to rest, she cut a hole in the bag, slipped out, put a large stone in the bag, and ran away. When the fox got home, all he had in his bag was a stone. The little hen was too smart for the sly old fox!

In our Bible lesson today, a group of religious leaders went to Jesus and said to him, "Get away from here if you want to live! Herod Antipas wants to kill you!"

Jesus replied, "Go tell that fox that I will keep on casting out demons and healing people today and tomorrow; and the third day I will accomplish my purpose. Yes, today, tomorrow, and the next day I must go about my business. It just wouldn't do for a prophet of God to be killed anywhere but in Jerusalem."

Then Jesus went on to compare himself to a mother hen. "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me."

What a beautiful picture of Jesus. The fox couldn't defeat him, but like a mother hen gathers her chicks beneath her wings to protect them, Jesus willingly gave himself to save his children even though they had rejected him time and time again. Jesus still loves his children today. He still wants to gather them in his arms and protect them and care for them. Sometimes, we stray away, but Jesus still loves us just the same. That's the kind of love he has for you and me.

Father, we thank you that Jesus loves and protects us like a mother hen protects her chicks. Keep us near to him and may we never stray from him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **Gospel Reading, Luke 13:31-35**

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!'"

### **Message**

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. The Gospel Matthew gives us hosannas. The Gospel John gives us palm branches and our Gospel of Luke today 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.

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. 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. Remember I'm a city girl – as I've mentioned many times before – so I'm not up on all things chicken but each year my grandson and I would make our way to TSC to check out all the baby chicks that had been born. There would be pens all over the store with chickens and ducks and we would just sit there and watch and listen to their peeping.

The momma chicken would be in the pen with them and some of those little chicks would just follow and do whatever mom was doing. 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 head the other direction. Momma hen would walk over to them and "gather" them back to herself. If we got too close, we learned quickly it would startle her and she would raise her wings, to her own discomfort, and draw them all beneath herself where they were covered and safe. I can't even imagine how often she would patiently repeat this process of teaching, nurturing, protecting and gathering her brood with all the people that come to check them out. How did momma hen have the will to repeat that process yet again and 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. 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 who had sent Jesus to gather them, that he might be their peace. As it was in the days of the prophets of old, so it was as Jesus approached Jerusalem. It's always easier to

see someone else's unwillingness to live in God's will, isn't it? After all, we're disciples and would never so willingly reject and oppose God's will in our lives, would we? Peter didn't think so and yet he flat out rejected God's plan to send Jesus to the cross. It took Jesus calling him Satan before he saw his unwillingness. Paul, who often lamented Israel's unwillingness to live in God's will, had directly rejected and opposed God's plan in Jesus and needed a blinding light and period without sight to understand. And even though Jesus' lament in Luke's gospel is for a specific city and a specific people, he also laments yours and my unwillingness to be gathered, as a hen gathers her chicks, into his gracious will.

For some, Jesus sees our unwillingness to be reconciled to a person that you once cared for deeply. Someone may have hurt you so badly that you can't imagine feeling safe with them again. How often he extends his healing only to watch you hold on even tighter to the hurt. And Jesus weeps and laments at your unwillingness to receive his peace for your life. He knows it doesn't have to be this way. It's hard, isn't it?

For some of us, Jesus sees how hard you're trying to manage yet another situation as if you had the power to control the universe. How often he has poured his grace upon you when you find yourself helpless to make your plan work! He wants nothing more than to gather you, to see you let go of the struggle, to live in his freedom, and to rest in his peace. His tears fall as he watches you turn your back and take the reins yet again.

We all have some place in our life where we are unwilling to be conformed to the will of Jesus. That unwillingness is wrapped into what Jesus is up to today as he approaches Jerusalem weeping and lamenting. How often he's been here, with us, with his people, and with the world. We are powerless to change our unwillingness and to will ourselves into his healing, his mercy, his path of life and his freedom. No wonder tears flow from our Savior's eyes as he looks upon Jerusalem and his people as they praise him. No wonder tears flow from our Savior's eyes as he looks upon us and we praise him today.

I think that's why little details in Scripture make such a difference. Jesus' weeping on Palm Sunday in Luke 19. He has tried to gather us back to himself so often that it seems logical he should walk away and leave us to judgment and yet, the image Jesus uses is not only of the unwilling chicks, it also shows an even greater unwillingness: A hen never, ever stops pursuing her chicks that she loves! When a mother hen sees her chicks confused, wandering away, or in peril, there is nothing that could prevent her from spreading her wings and covering those helpless, vulnerable and often unwilling little ones. She is unwilling to leave her chicks on their own!

Can you see it? He raises his wings higher than it seems possible, to his own discomfort and anguish. So high and lifted up are the arms of Jesus that it took nails to hold him outstretched. So unwilling is Jesus that you should perish in your sin that he submits to the Father's will. Standing in the shadow of those blood-stained arms on the cross, we see the full fury of divine punishment fall in a deathblow, not upon you, his helpless chick, but upon Jesus who received every last ounce of the Father's judgment.

So strong and eager is the will of God to restore his creation and rejoice over you that he would strike his own Son in judgment and death, but that's only the beginning! After three days in the tomb, God's love for you caused him to raise Jesus from the dead. On that great day of

resurrection, Jesus, not like a hen but now like a phoenix rising from the ashes, is raised to life to usher in for you a new day and a new creation in the face of your sin and unwillingness. But you don't have to wait a week to be gathered under his wings.

“How often” Jesus meets you here, in this sanctuary, to gather you and remind you that you are his, marked by his powerful name in Baptism and blessed by your confirmation of your faith as we will hear from our three confirmands in just moments. How often he hears your confession and gathers you under his wings of forgiveness and mercy. How often he gathers you to himself at the supper where he brings you into his presence and sets a banquet table of life and forgiveness before you. How often he sends you out in his blessing, peace and with the promise of his nurturing, protecting presence. This Jesus is unwilling to give up on you.

As we lean into Jesus, we experience the tender wings of grace that are already covering us. As you look around, safe and secure, you discover that you are not alone. You are joined under his wing by all of us [*point and look at the congregation*], his chicks. Perhaps we could say it this way: no one is gathered alone. And no one leans into Jesus alone. Thank goodness that our unwillingness can't stop Jesus from gathering and covering us in God's love and with his peace.

Under His wings, we lean into Jesus' love and peace today and discover, again, that his wings are already covering us. They have been covering us all along. And under his wings we find we are not alone in the struggle. Today, on Palm Sunday, as we sing and celebrate the coming of the King who ascended the throne of the cross, we confess our own unwillingness but, even more, we trust that the love of God in Jesus is relentless in pursuing us. We lean, then, into his arms of love and peace again and forevermore. Amen.

### **Confirmation Hymn of the Day:** Baptized in Water

Baptized in water, sealed by the spirit  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;  
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise  
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our king;  
born of one Father, we are his children  
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

### **Affirmation of Baptism** – (confirmands come forward)

These persons have been instructed in Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

**Macie JoLynn Cavett**, daughter of Stephanie and Tim Cavett, Baptized April 20, 2014. Sponsors are Rick and Rindy Velure and Kristen and Major Hopp.

**Autumn Arianna Pribyl**, daughter of Deborah and Brian Gonzalez. Baptized May 2008. Sponsors are Donna Dorn, James Leske, and Veronica Gunderson.

**Reed Archer Volden**, son of Dawn and Scott Volden. Baptized March 12, 2006. Sponsors are

Dan and Lindsey Durr and Dawn Herford.

Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? If so please answer with "I do".

Confirmands: **I do**

Do you believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son of God and God the Holy Spirit? If so please answer with "I do".

Confirmands: **I do**

Let us as congregation declare our beliefs in the words of the Apostles Creed together:  
*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 to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen*

Confirmands, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

To live among God's faithful people

To hear his word and share in his supper

To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed

To serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus

And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*(Pastor will hold microphone out for each confirmand to respond)*

Macie: I do and I ask God to help and guide me

Autumn: I do and I ask God to help and guide me

Reed: I do and I ask God to help and guide me

(Confirmand will hold microphone – face congregation and read their piece)

Macie: My name is Macie and I say Yes! to Jesus, my Lord and Savior. I intend to follow him my whole life through. My Confirmation verse is Psalm 18:30 - *This God—his way is perfect; the promise of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.*

Autumn: My name is Autumn and I say Yes! to Jesus, my Lord and Savior. I intend to follow him my whole life through. My Confirmation verse is Psalm 18:19 *He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.*

Reed: My name is Reed and I say Yes! to Jesus, my Lord and Savior. I intend to follow him my whole life through. My Confirmation verse is Jeremiah 29:11 *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these young women and young man your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen

*(Confirmands move together to the side by the piano until I call their name. When name is called confirmand comes to the center of the front of church facing the altar – family/sponsors come forward and lay their hands on the confirmand)*

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life, empower her/him in his/her serving, give her/him patience in suffering and bring her/him to everlasting life.

Family responds with: Amen (return to your seats)

**Prayers** (O Lord, who enters in to save us, **may we receive you willingly.**)

Humble King, with palms and praises, we welcome you into our midst as you travel down the road to the cross and the empty tomb. Help us to continue to welcome you into our midst in our homes and into our neighborhoods, when we go to work and when we go to school. Help us always to sing your praises and glorify your name in all that we say and do, knowing that through you alone we have everlasting life. O Lord, who enters in to save us, **may we receive you willingly.**

Those who gathered on the road when you entered Jerusalem to lift their voices to you in happy shouts of “Hosanna!” this day will soon raise their voices in anger toward you with shouts of “Crucify him!” Prepare our hearts this week for the transition from praise to persecution, and ready us to witness the ultimate sacrifice you made on the cross for us and for



those who shouted for your crucifixion. Help us to recognize the pain that you endured but also the lasting joy that your death and resurrection will have on us all as we await the day when we will sing your praises together again in heaven. O Lord, who enters in to save us, **may we receive you willingly.**

Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on these confirmands as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them. Help us as a congregation be an instrument of Your love. Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand. Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us. O Lord, who enters in to save us, **may we receive you willingly.**

Reveal to us, O ever-present Lord, ways in which we can gather together more and more often as your brothers and sisters in the faith. Make us faithful in worship together. Bind us together in our prayer life. Speak to us in our sharing of your Word with one another. In all that we do in unity of the Spirit remind us that wherever two or three are gathered in your name, there you are in the midst of us. O Lord, who enters in to save us, **may we receive you willingly.**

For those who walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, Margie and Sonya, Marlis and Terry, Jeff and Evonne, Kirk and Arlis, and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. O Lord, who enters in to save us, **may we receive you willingly.**

All these petitions we offer in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who did the will of God and lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Meal**

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## **Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer**

*Our father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we*

*forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen*

## **Blessing**

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the +Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

## **Closing Hymn – Go, My Children with My Blessing**

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing - You are My own.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children, I will keep you and give you peace.



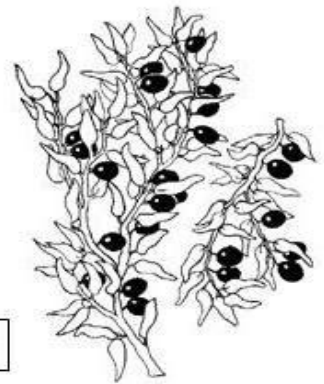
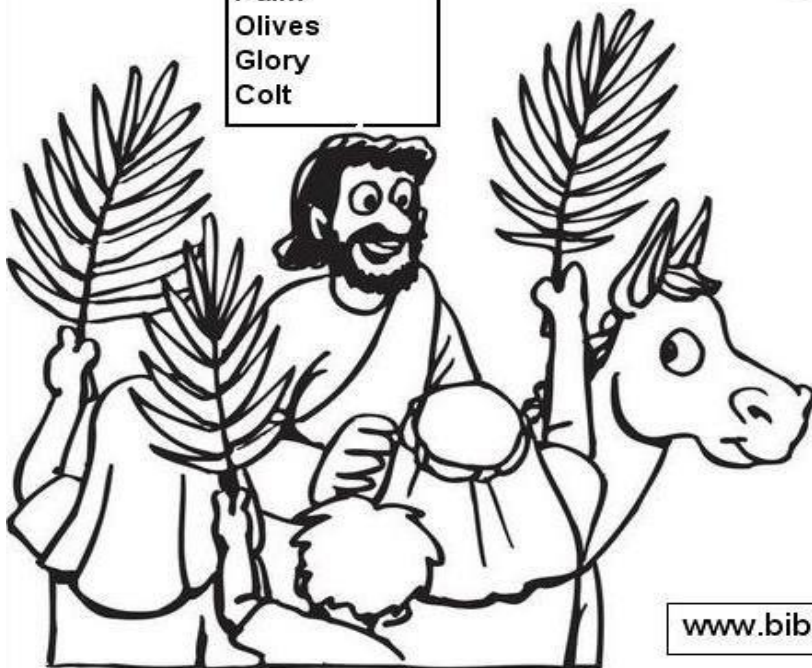
# Palm Sunday

Find the Hidden Word

Word Bank

- Jerusalem
- Disciples
- Village
- Donkey
- Master
- Jesus
- Cloaks
- People
- Road
- Hosanna
- David
- Palm
- Olives
- Glory
- Colt

O L I V E S  
 O P E R A D D  
 G L O R Y I I J  
 N U N Z V I E O  
 R G A O R S U  
 A C D B D Y N U O P L  
 U M A S T E R S N A I  
 V F D K E E R L  
 R T N Q G V B M N L  
 H O S A N N A S D  
 V D S L Q U P M P  
 B S D F L S T P Z E A  
 D I S C I P L E S L  
 G H V C M O V A  
 D I S C E P O P I S  
 C L O A K S L P U  
 P A S Q E T R M  
 L N E K  
 R O A D J



PALM SUNDAY  
MAZE

