



Order of Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 2, 2023

Call to worship (Matthew 21:5, 9)

Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey.

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Call to confession

As we enter Holy Week, let us prepare our hearts to follow Jesus to the cross by confessing all that turns us from our Savior's path.

Prayer of confession

Abba God, Father of Jesus, forgive our lack of respect and attention as your son enters this most painful of weeks. We, like the disciples, fall asleep when Jesus asks us to stay awake and pray. Our minds wander as he sets his path straight for Jerusalem to speak truth to power on our behalf. We are careless with our faith, while Jesus acts with extraordinary love. Forgive our apathy. Forgive our inattention. Forgive our careless and self-serving attitudes. Remind us, this Holy Week, of the salvation you offer in Jesus Christ. Let us not take this gracious gift for granted. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (Psalm 118:1)

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!" In the name of Jesus Christ, know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Divine redeemer, center us today in your holy Word. Liberate us from the distractions of daily life and the sins which constrict and close our minds. Help us to hear the truth you intend for us today. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon





Affirmation of faith (Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

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

Call for the offering

God has given us everything, including the life of God's son. Let us honor God by giving generously of ourselves in return.

Prayer of dedication

God of grace, you amaze us with your grace and the depths of your love. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless the energy, intelligence, imagination and love we put into furthering Christ's ministry among your people. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Holy God, we shout, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" and celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, while also acknowledging the crucifixion that is to come and the real suffering of your people. In this moment of prayer, hear our cries for mercy, peace and justice.

Reassure us with your promises, Holy God, remembering: "God's steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 118:1)

Source of life and love, hold those who are grieving; those who have lost loved ones; those who feel their world growing smaller with the death of friends, spouses, companions, partners. Accompany these grieving souls in their journey with death, allowing them to experience the peace of your presence and the gentle guidance of your hand.

Reassure us with your promises, Holy God, remembering: "God's steadfast love endures forever."





Prince of Peace, friend of the oppressed, seeker of the poor and the marginalized, offer hope to those abandoned and ignored. Feed the poor with the hope of your good news. Shelter the houseless and guide us as your architects of grace. May your people live in the safety and security each deserves.

Reassure us with your promises, Holy God, remembering: “God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

Savior God, wounded healer, befriend the sick and their caregivers. Look with mercy on those struggling with physical pain and illness. Lighten the load of those whose bodies betray them. Heal the heartsick and apply your balm of love on all your hurting people.

Reassure us with your promises, Holy God, remembering: “God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

Mighty Prophet, speak truth to those who abuse their power, oppress others for their nation’s or their personal gain, and betray the dignity of each human life. Right what is wrong among warring nations, Holy God, and empower those who thirst for peace. May we wage Christ’s nonviolent love in a world deadest on waging violent wars.

Reassure us with your promises, Holy God, remembering: “God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

Now, as your people gather on this Sabbath day, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying, **“Our Father...”**.

Charge and benediction (Book of Common Worship)

Beloved people of God;
I invite you, in the name of Christ,
to observe this Holy Week
by self-examination and penitence,
by prayer and fasting,
by works of love,
and by meditating on Gods’ word.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. **Amen.**

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2023

Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott
and provided for free distribution.

For more resources,
visit pres-outlook.org



THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK