



A Short Service of Reading and Reflection
April 12, 2025

Liturgy of the Palms

Preparing

We are invited to reflect before the service begins.

I was pressed so hard that I almost fell,
but the LORD came to my help.

The LORD is my strength and my song
and has become my salvation.

There is a sound of exultation and victory
in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the LORD has triumphed!
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!”

I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.¹

Prelude: Valet will ich dir geben by JS Bach

The pastor leads and we respond by reading the bold type:

Jesus is the rock of our salvation.

But the builders rejected that rock.

Jesus is the gate of righteousness.

But so many consider him a fraud.

Jesus has become the cornerstone of our lives.

Shall we enter his gate of righteousness?

Yes! Let us worship the Lord.²

The pastor briefly shares announcements.

Inviting

The liturgist continues:

Foundation of our faith,

your Son humbled himself on the back of a colt.

Then he entered Jerusalem in lowly estate

to bring joy to the hearts of children.

Forsaking his place at your side,

Jesus emptied himself of prestige and power

to become a servant to all.

On this day of joy and remembrance,

sing in our hearts once more,

that we too may dance with the children—

for to such belong the kingdom of heaven.³

Amen.

The cantor and people sing (to the tune of Hymn #506):

O Holy One, we sing Your praise;

we lift our songs of gladness

for You with hope our spirits raise;

You comfort us in sadness.

From youth to age we see

Your acts that set us free

when all our strength has left,

You lift us from the depths;

we praise Your grace and goodness.⁴

Praying

The liturgist continues:

O Lord God, destroy and root out whatever the Adversary plants in us, that with our sins destroyed you may sow understanding and good work in our mouths and hearts; so that in act and in truth we may serve only you and know how to fulfill the commandments of Christ and to seek yourself.⁵

After a period of silent reflection on our sin and God's grace, we continue:

Give us memory, give us love, give us faith, give us all things which you know belong to the profit of our souls. O Lord, work good in us, and provide us with what you know that we need.

Amen.

The liturgist may remind us of special blessings, needs and concerns, and then says:

I invite you to kneel as we pray.

Our holy Guardian God, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

We give glory to God, who has concern for us all. Lord, save the people you have redeemed.

We pray silently.

Teach us to serve the needs of others, and to be like you, who came to serve.

We pray silently.

Make us a community that truly seeks you. May we all help each other, so that we may be your city.

We pray silently.

Protect with your love all who suffer (including _____).

We pray silently.

May we follow the Christ, Savior of us all, who sought you in the desert:
Release the captives and free us from fear.

Amen.

The congregation sits.

Listening

Listen to the word of God from Isaiah, chapter 50, verses 4a-9.

Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

The word of God.

Thanks be to God.

After a period of silent reflection on the reading, the pastor says:

Please join in reading from Psalm 118.

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, who is good;
whose mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim,
“God’s mercy endures for ever.”
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 “This is the gate of the Lord;
those who are righteous may enter.”
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Hosanna, Lord, hosanna!

Lord, send us now success.

- 26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.
- 27 God is the Lord; and has shined upon us;
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 “You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”
- 29 Give thanks to the Lord, who is good;
whose mercy endures for ever.

After a period of silent reflection on the Psalm, the lector says:

Listen to the word of God from Philippians, chapter 2, verses 5-11.

Lesson from the New Testament

The word of God.

Thanks be to God.

After a period of silent reflection on the reading, the cantor says:

Please stand and join me in singing ____ stanzas of hymn 188, “My Song is Love Unknown.”

The people continue standing as the liturgist continues:

Listen to the gospel according to Luke, chapter 19, verses 28-40.

Lesson from the Gospel

The word of God.

Thanks be to God.

We reflect silently on the Gospel.

Offering

The liturgist continues:

Please be seated.

We thank you, O God, for your generous Spirit.

We praise you for Christ’s gift of self,
and your never-failing love.

For your many gifts,
we thank you.⁶

As we contemplate God's word and God's generous gifts, we offer our
lives and our praise.

*If you wish to donate financially, you can give at the doors to the sanctuary, or
you can visit lasierra.church and click on "Give."*

Offertory: St. Gabriel by Healey Willan

Considering

The homilist prays:

Merciful God, your words sustain the weary
and awaken those who slumber.
Put your words of life in our hearts,
that we may be strengthened to walk with Christ
until the bitter end.⁷

Amen.

Homily

Affirming

The liturgist says:

As we remember Christ's path to Jerusalem,
to his death and resurrection,
we speak of that mystery we call faith:

**By Christ, we are redeemed from sin;
by Christ, we are delivered from death;
by Christ, we are adopted as God's children.**

We join the cantor in singing (tune of #506):

**Your tender power we proclaim
with every generation.**

**O Holy One, Your gifts we claim
with joy and celebration.**

**Your wondrous deeds we sing;
our gratitude we bring.**

**Your loving care revives
and keeps our hope alive.**

We give you adoration.

**O Holy One, Your faithfulness,
no power on earth can sever.**

**We celebrate Your righteousness
that sparks our best endeavor.**

**The highest heavens tell
Your love that never fails.**

**Your blessings all day long
inspire our greatest songs.**

We sing your praise forever.

Responding

The pastor says:

Grant us, O God, your protection; and in your protection, strength; and in strength, understanding; and in understanding, knowledge; and in knowledge, the knowledge of justice; and in knowledge of justice, the love of justice; and in that love, the love of existence; and in existence, the love of God, God and all goodness.⁸

Amen.

Angelus (organ chimes)

Blessing

Postlude: Grand Chœur by G. Neuville

The pastor says and the people respond:

Jesus came to bless us.

With the light of his love,

Jesus came to illumine our way.

From the power of aimlessness and sin,

Jesus came to set us free.

With the power of the Holy Spirit,

Jesus came to save us.

Go with the blessings of God's anointed.⁹

Upcoming Texts

April 19: Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; and Matthew 27:57-66.

April 26: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; and John 20:19-31.

Visit <https://lasierra.church/liturgical-service/> to view upcoming texts and participants, download this liturgy, watch online, or sign up for our email newsletter.

¹ Psalm 118: 13-17, *Psalter for the Christian People* (1993).

² B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

³ B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

⁴ Words by Jann Aldredge-Clanton, *Inclusive Hymns for Liberation, Peace, and Justice* (2011).

⁵ Adapted from Columbanus.

⁶ B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

⁷ B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).

⁸ Welsh prayer, from *2000 Years of Prayer* (1999).

⁹ B. J. Beu, *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025* (2024).