



American Lutheran Church of Sun City

17200 N. Del Webb Blvd.—Sun City, AZ

alcsuncity.org

Sunday of the Passion—Palm Sunday

March 23 & 24, 2024



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT
(Sunday)

“A King Came Riding By”

Douglas Wagner

GATHERING

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Mark 11:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the twenty-first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

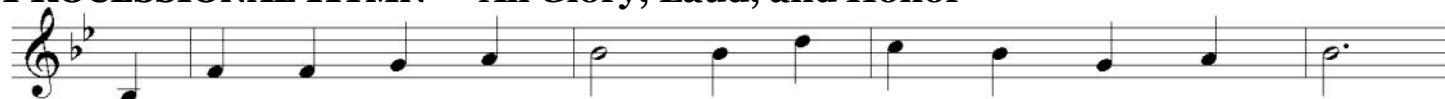
We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: in the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"



1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3. To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.
cre a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.



You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.
Everlasting God,

C: in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM
(Sunday)

"Of Tears and Sorrows"

Joseph Martin

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK

Mark 14:1-15:47

NARRATOR: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark.

ALL: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

NARRATOR: It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

ALL (*Chief Priests*): **"Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."**

NARRATOR: While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

ALL (*Disciples*): **"Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor."**

NARRATOR: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

JESUS: "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

NARRATOR: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

ALL (*Disciples*): **"Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"**

NARRATOR: So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

JESUS: "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

NARRATOR: So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

NARRATOR: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

ALL (*Disciples*): **"Surely, not I?"**

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

NARRATOR: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

JESUS: "Take; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

JESUS: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

SPEAKER (*Peter*): "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: But he said vehemently,

SPEAKER (*Peter*): "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And all of them said the same.

HYMN

"Were You There?"

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

NARRATOR: They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I pray."

NARRATOR: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

JESUS: "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

NARRATOR: He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

NARRATOR: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

SPEAKER (*Judas*): "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

NARRATOR: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

SPEAKER (*Judas*): "Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: All of them deserted him and fled.

HYMN

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.**

NARRATOR: A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

ALL (*Accusers*): **"We heard him say, `I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"**

NARRATOR: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

SPEAKER (*High Priest*): "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,
 SPEAKER (*High Priest*): "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,
 JESUS: "I am; and `you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and `coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,
 SPEAKER (*High Priest*): "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

NARRATOR: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,
ALL (*Accusers*): "Prophesy!"

NARRATOR: The guards also took him over and beat him.
 While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,
 SPEAKER (*Servant Girl*): "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

NARRATOR: But he denied it, saying,
 SPEAKER (*Peter*): "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,
 SPEAKER (*Servant Girl*): "This man is one of them."

NARRATOR: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,
ALL (*Bystanders*): "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

NARRATOR: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,
 SPEAKER (*Peter*): "I do not know this man you are talking about."

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,
 JESUS: "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he broke down and wept.
 NARRATOR: As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,
 SPEAKER (*Pilate*): "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: He answered him,
 JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,
 SPEAKER (*Pilate*): "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

NARRATOR: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.
 Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who

had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

SPEAKER (*Pilate*): "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

SPEAKER (*Pilate*): "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: They shouted back,

ALL (*Crowd*): **"Crucify him!"**

NARRATOR: Pilate asked them,

SPEAKER (*Pilate*): "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

ALL (*Crowd*): **"Crucify him!"**

NARRATOR: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

ALL (*Soldiers*): **"Hail, King of the Jews!"**

NARRATOR: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

HYMN **"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"**

**O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.**

NARRATOR: They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

ALL (*Bystanders*): **"Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"**

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

ALL (Chief Priests): "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

NARRATOR: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: which means,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

ALL (Bystanders): "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

NARRATOR: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

ALL (Bystanders): "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

NARRATOR: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

SPEAKER (Centurion): "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARRATOR: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN

"Were You There?"

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR PALM SUNDAY

Tracing the cross on your forehead.

P: The Cross reminds us of what Jesus went through. Let us ask his forgiveness as we recall his death for us.

C: Jesus, we have sinned in what we have thought. Cross out our selfish ideas, and fill us instead with your love of seeing the best in others.

Tracing the cross on your mouth.

P: Jesus, we have sinned in what we have said.

C: Cross out our hurtful words, and fill us instead with your concern to speak blessing into others' lives.

Tracing the cross on your hands.

P: Jesus, we have sinned in what we have done.

C: Cross out the evil we do, and instead make us channels of your peace and love.

Tracing the cross on your heart.

P: Jesus, we have confessed what comes to our minds.

C: By your Word and your Spirit, pierce our hearts, and help us to see deeper into our condition, so we can be further healed.

Making the sign of the cross

P: Lord Jesus, we hold on to your cross.

C: We thank you for your promise to forgive all who repent and believe your good news. Amen.

P: May God who loved the world so much that God sent God's Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve God in this world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: ... Hear Us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: and also with you.

You may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERTORY

"The Holy City" Elizabeth Jong, soprano

Weatherly/Adams

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a
right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

C: Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

CHRIST'S WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: ... With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

THE 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; and 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.

FRACTION RITE

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.

C: Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

Embodied God,

C at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

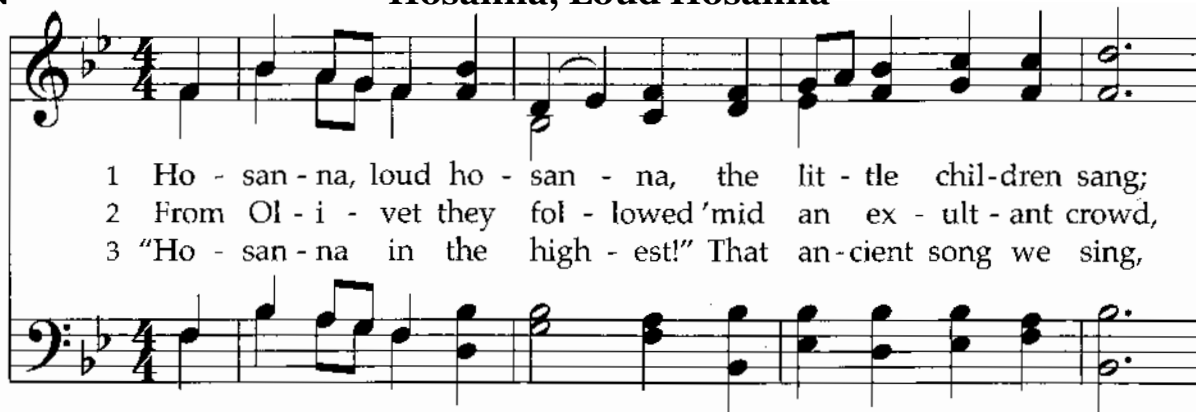
BENEDICTION

P: God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

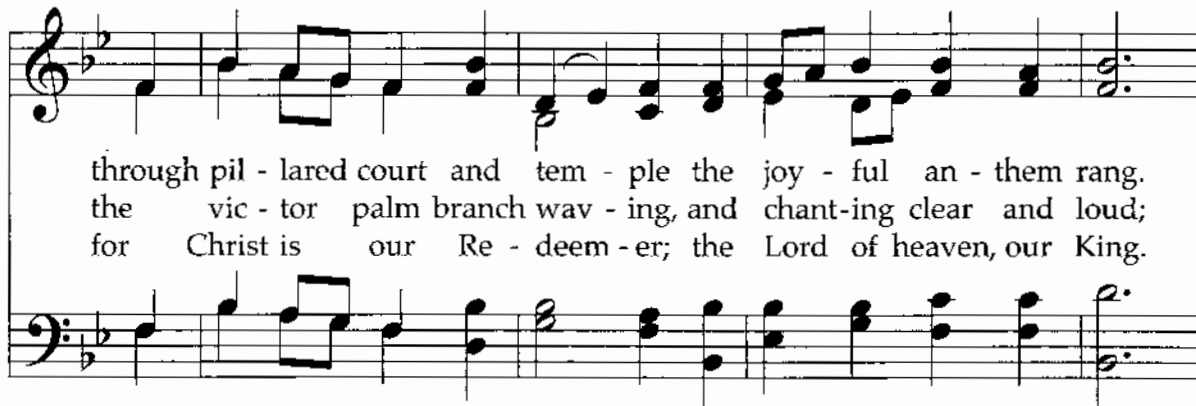
C: Amen.

HYMN

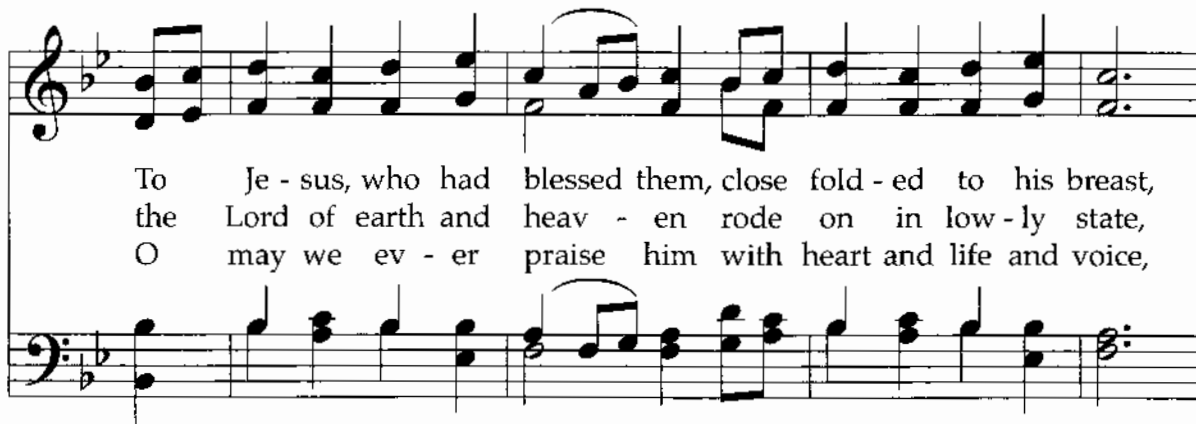
"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"



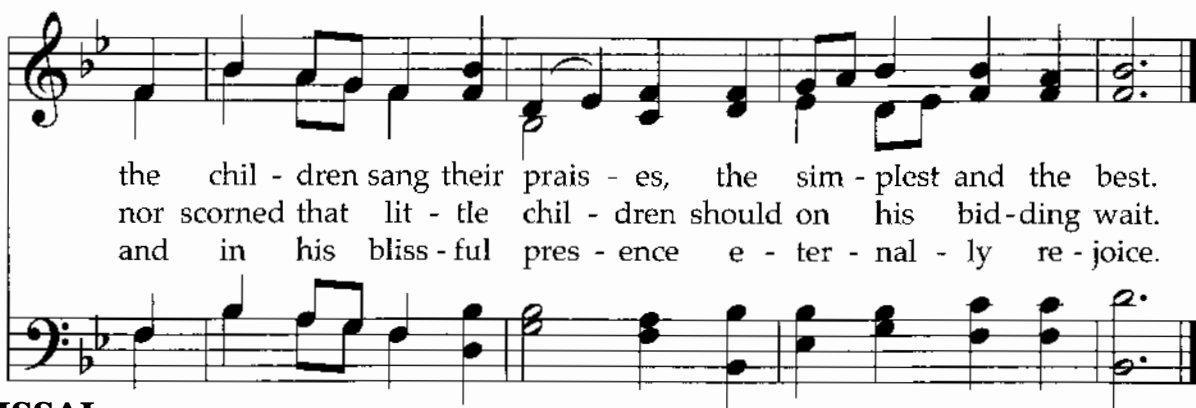
1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.