

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

As Holy Week begins, we are drawn into the dramatic turn of events of the last days of Jesus’ life. On Sunday he is welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts of joy and roaring hosannas. By the end of the week he is betrayed, arrested, and abandoned by Passover pilgrims and his closest friends. Things turn quickly from a parade to a death sentence carried out on a cross between two thieves.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Processional Gospel Reading: John 12:12-19 **Triumphal Entry**
Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem to shouts of “Hosanna!” and a crowd calling him the King of Israel. The Pharisees continued to be threatened by Jesus’ presence.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a **The Lord Vindicates His Servant**
Isaiah declared that no amount of persecution or malevolence could disgrace him, for the Lord God is his help. He had been given the wisdom of the those who have been taught by the Lord. If God is our help, who then can declare us guilty?

Psalms 31:9-16 **Let Me Not Be Put to Shame**
The psalmist cried out in pain. Misery and despair came upon him, and he asked the Lord to deliver him from his plight. He who had been forgotten by men asked to be remembered by the Lord.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11 **Every Knee Shall Bow**
Paul reminded the congregation at Philippi that Jesus humbled himself by becoming human. He adopted a servant nature and was fully obedient to God — an obedience that included death on a cross.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:1—27:66 **The Passion of Jesus**
Matthew recalled the events leading up to Jesus’ death by crucifixion, beginning with the chief priests’ and elders’ plot to kill Jesus after the Passover but before the Sabbath. Unfortunately, Jesus’ own followers would participate in his demise.

Suggestions for the Sunday:
Liturgical Color: Purple
During the Season of Lent:
• Use the Kyrie.
• Omit the Hymn of Praise
• Use the Apostles’ Creed.
Encourage children to line up before worship begins for a palm procession. During the Opening Hymn have them come in singing and waving their palm branches.
Make sure that the congregation has a written list of the worship schedule for Holy Week. Use social media to get the word out about upcoming services, including next Sunday’s Easter worship times.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
All Glory, Laud, and Honor	108	---	442	344	146	146
Prepare the Royal Highway	26	---	343	264	102	102
Jesus, Priceless Treasure	458	---	743	775	457	457
My Song is Love Unknown	94	661	430	343	---	---
The Royal Banners Forward Go	124	---	455	---	125	125
Lift High the Cross	377	---	837	660	269	269
Ah, Holy Jesus	123	---	---	349	133	133
Jesus, I Will Ponder Now	115	---	440	345	---	---
There in God’s Garden	---	668	---	342	---	---
There is a Green Hill Far Away	114	---	---	---	137	137

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The Reclaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
Grace (What Sets the Sinner Free) (CCLI# 5807114)
Sing Hosanna (CCLI# 5779015)
Hosanna, Praise is Rising (CCLI# 4662491)
Blessed is He (CCLI# 593956)
Betrayed with a Kiss (CCLI# 4816209)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.