

Home Worship for Palm/Passion Sunday and the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week

*These services are for use in a single home
or with a cluster of homes gathered by means of the internet*

Palm/Passion Sunday

To wave palm branches as part of this worship, cut out one of the patterns below for use or be creative and improvise! Make homemade musical instruments (percussion and wind) to play during the Responsory.

Prayer

God our hope,
today we remember that when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem
the people shouted hosannas and proclaimed him as king.
Help us to honor him every day,
choose him as our leader,
and follow him in the way that leads to new life;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

- 1** When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,
- 2** saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.
- 3** If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately. "
- 4** This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,
- 5** "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
- 6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
- 7** they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.
- 8** A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.
- 9** The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"
- 10** When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"
- 11** The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Responsory (*if desired, wave palm branches and use homemade instruments*)

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna to Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Hosanna in the highest!

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who brings hope during difficult times!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Hosanna in the highest!



Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:5-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,

8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reflect (*silently or share in a group*): The Hebrew word “hosanna” means “save us.” When you say “hosanna,” what does it mean to you?

Prayers for Others

Almighty God, hear our prayers for the Church and for the world.

Grant that all who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation,
that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others
and to your honor and glory.
Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours,
and grant that we may serve Christ in them,
and love one another as Christ loves us.
Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
give them courage and hope in their troubles,
and bring them the joy of your salvation.
In mercy, receive all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled;
and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.
We pray all these prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

adapted from "A Litany for the Church and for the World,"
The United Methodist Book of Worship #495

The Lord's Prayer

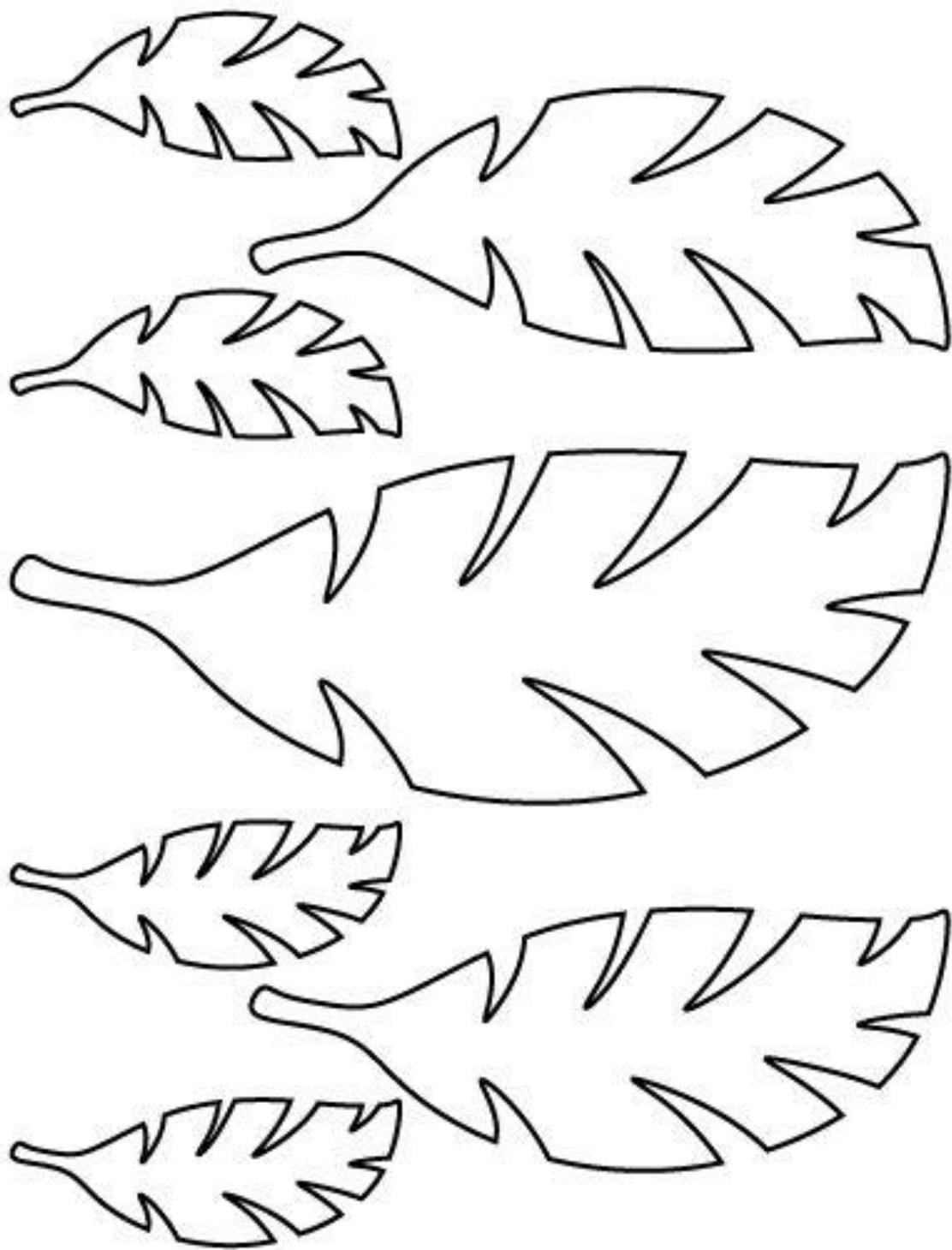
Sing "What Wondrous Love Is This" (*The United Methodist Hymnal* #292)

To hear the song, use one of these links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8FguGvkgjo>;
or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-UmemwpAvA>

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my for my soul.

To learn more about this hymn, see <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-what-wondrous-love-is-this>



Monday

Prayer

Almighty God, you are strong and merciful.
By the suffering and death of your Son,
free us from slavery to sin and death.
Protect us in all our weakness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9 (Common English Bible)

1 But here is my servant, the one I uphold; my chosen, who brings me delight. I've put my spirit upon him; he will bring justice to the nations.
2 He won't cry out or shout aloud or make his voice heard in public.
3 He won't break a bruised reed; he won't extinguish a faint wick, but he will surely bring justice.
4 He won't be extinguished or broken until he has established justice in the land. The coastlands await his teaching.
5 God the LORD says— the one who created the heavens, the one who stretched them out, the one who spread out the earth and its offspring, the one who gave breath to its people and life to those who walk on it—
6 I, the LORD, have called you for a good reason. I will grasp your hand and guard you, and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations,
7 to open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison, and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.
8 I am the LORD; that is my name; I don't hand out my glory to others or my praise to idols.
9 The things announced in the past—look—they've already happened, but I'm declaring new things. Before they even appear, I tell you about them.

Responsory

Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the time of salvation.

Let us prove ourselves in patience
in the power of the Lord.
Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the time of salvation.

Let us live as God's servants,
watching in the word of truth,
in the power of redeeming love.
Now is the season of hope.
Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the time of salvation.

Gospel: John 12:1-11 (Common English Bible)

- 1** Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, home of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.
- 2** Lazarus and his sisters hosted a dinner for him. Martha served and Lazarus was among those who joined him at the table.
- 3** Then Mary took an extraordinary amount, almost three-quarters of a pound, of very expensive perfume made of pure nard. She anointed Jesus' feet with it, then wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house was filled with the aroma of the perfume.
- 4** Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), complained,
- 5** "This perfume was worth a year's wages! Why wasn't it sold and the money given to the poor?"
- 6** (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He carried the money bag and would take what was in it.)
- 7** Then Jesus said, "Leave her alone. This perfume was to be used in preparation for my burial, and this is how she has used it.
- 8** You will always have the poor among you, but you won't always have me."
- 9** Many Jews learned that he was there. They came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
- 10** The chief priests decided that they would kill Lazarus too.
- 11** It was because of Lazarus that many of the Jews had deserted them and come to believe in Jesus.

Reflect (*silently or share in a group*): In hearing or reading the Scripture lessons from Isaiah and John, did you find yourself focusing on a particular word or image? What is that word or image? What meaning does it have for you?



Prayers for Others based on the Lord's Prayer (Ecumenical Text)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Hear our prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Hear our prayers for peace in the world

Give us today our daily bread.
Hear our prayers for the poor and the needy

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Hear our prayers for reconciliation with our neighbors

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
Hear our prayers for those who suffer because of the spread of the Covid-19 virus

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Sing “Amazing Grace” (*The United Methodist Hymnal* #378)

To hear the song, use the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG0vH4WYChQ>

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me save thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

To learn more about this hymn, see <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-amazing-grace-part-i>

The Responsory is adapted from Hoyt L. Hickman, et. al., *The Handbook of the Christian Year* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1986), p. 153.

Tuesday

Prayer

God of strength and mercy,
by the suffering of your Son
you made the cross to be for us
the means of life.
Grant that we may walk
the way of the cross,
and find it the way of our life and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 71:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

- 1 In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.
- 2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.
- 3 Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
- 4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
- 5 For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
- 6 Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.
- 7 I have been like a portent to many, but you are my strong refuge.
- 8 My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all day long.
- 9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent.
- 10 For my enemies speak concerning me, and those who watch for my life consult together.
- 11 They say, "Pursue and seize that person whom God has forsaken, for there is no one to deliver."
- 12 O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!

Responsory

Let us glory in the cross of Jesus Christ.
Through him we have salvation, life, and resurrection.
Cross of Christ, tree of hope.
For us he became obedient even to death on a cross;
because of this God exalted him above every name.
Cross of Christ, tree of hope.

Gospel: John 12:20-36

- 20** Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.
- 21** They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."
- 22** Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.
- 23** Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
- 24** Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- 25** Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
- 26** Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.
- 27** "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.
- 28** Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."
- 29** The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."
- 30** Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.
- 31** Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.
- 32** And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."
- 33** He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.
- 34** The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"
- 35** Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going.
- 36** While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Reflect (*silently or share in a group*): What does it mean to you that Jesus is the light?
How do you understand yourself to be a child of the light?



Prayers for Others based on the Lord's Prayer (Ecumenical Text)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Hear our prayers of praise and adoration

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Hear our prayers for our country, our town, our neighborhood

Give us today our daily bread.

Hear our prayers for those who are out of work

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Hear our prayers for reconciliation with family members

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

Hear our prayers for those who suffer because of the spread of the Covid-19 virus

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Sing "This Little Light of Mine" (*The United Methodist Hymnal* #585)

To hear the song, use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2kDsqGeoLU>

This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine . . .

All through the night, I'm goin'-a let it shine . . .

(Improvise other verses!)

Wednesday

Prayer

Most merciful God, your Son, our Savior,
was betrayed, whipped, and his face spat upon.
Grant us grace to endure the sufferings of the present time,
confident of the glory that shall yet be revealed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a (New International Version)

4 The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.
5 The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away.
6 I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.
7 Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.
8 He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me!
9 It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me?

Responsory (based on Hebrews 12:1-3)

Do not grow weary or lose heart.
Do not grow weary or lose heart.
We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses!
Do not grow weary or lose heart.
Let us run the race that is set before us!
Do not grow weary or lose heart.
Let us look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith!
Do not grow weary or lose heart.
Let us look to Jesus who reigns in power!
Do not grow weary or lose heart.

Gospel: John 13:21-30 (New International Version)

21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."
22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.
23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.
24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."
25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”

28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.

29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.

30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

Reflect (*silently or share in a group*): What is the race you are running? How does God support you in that race? How do you understand Jesus to be the pioneer and perfecter of *your* faith?



Prayers for Others based on the Lord’s Prayer (Ecumenical Text)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Hear our prayers of gratitude for your mercy and love

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Hear our prayers for your coming reign of peace

Give us today our daily bread.

Hear our prayers for the homeless and those with minimal shelter

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Hear our prayers for reconciliation with those who have wronged us

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

Hear our prayers for those who suffer because of the spread of the Covid-19 virus

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Sing “Guide My Feet” (*The Faith We Sing* #2208)

To hear the song, use the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-WVIppNBls>

Guide my feet while I run this race,
guide my feet while I run this race,
guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand . . .

Stand by me . . .

I'm your child . . .

Search my heart . . .

Guide my feet . . .