

**Office of Readings and  
Morning Prayer for  
Palm Sunday of Holy Week**



God, come to my assistance.

– Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

– as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## HYMN

### **Refrain:**

All glory, praise, and honor  
To you, Redeemer, King!  
To whom the lips of children  
Made glad hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel,  
And David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's Name comest  
The King and Blessed One. **Refrain:**

The company of angels  
Are praising you on high;  
And mortal men and all things  
Created make reply. **Refrain:**

The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before you went:  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before you we present. **Refrain:**

To you before your Passion  
They sang their hymns of praise:  
To you, now high exalted  
Our melody we raise. **Refrain:**

As once you did accept their praise,  
Accept the praise we bring,  
You who rejoice in ev'ry good,  
Our good and gracious King. **Refrain:**

## **PSALMODY**

**Ant. 1 Lord, our God, in splendor and majesty you are clothed,  
wrapped in light as in a robe.**

### **Psalm 104**

#### **Hymn to God the Creator**

*To be in Christ means being a completely new creature. Everything of the old is gone, now everything is made anew (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

## **I**

Bless the Lord, my soul! \*  
Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory, \*  
wrapped in light as in a robe!

You stretch out the heavens like a tent. \*  
Above the rains you build your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot, \*  
you walk on the wings of the wind,  
you make the winds your messengers \*  
and flashing fire your servants.

You founded the earth on its base, \*  
to stand firm from age to age.  
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak: \*  
the waters stood higher than the mountains.

At your threat they took to flight; \*  
at the voice of your thunder they fled.  
They rose over the mountains and flowed down \*  
to the place which you had appointed.  
You set limits they might not pass \*  
lest they return to cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys: \*  
they flow in between the hills.  
They give drink to all the beasts of the field; \*  
the wild asses quench their thirst.  
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven; \*  
from the branches they sing their song.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
— as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Ant. Lord, our God, in splendor and majesty you are clothed, wrapped  
in light as in a robe.**

**Ant. 2 The Lord has brought forth bread from the earth, and wine to give warmth to men's hearts.**

## II

From your dwelling you water the hills; \*  
earth drinks its fill of your gift.

You make the grass grow for the cattle \*  
and the plants to serve man's needs,

that he may bring forth bread from the earth \*  
and wine to cheer man's heart;  
oil, to make his face shine \*  
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the Lord drink their fill, \*  
the cedars he planted on Lebanon;  
there the birds build their nests; \*  
on the tree-top the stork has her home.  
The goats find a home on the mountains \*  
and rabbits hide in the rocks.

You made the moon to mark the months; \*  
the sun knows the time for its setting.  
When you spread the darkness it is night \*  
and all the beasts of the forest creep forth.  
The young lions roar for their prey \*  
and ask their food from God.

At the rising of the sun they steal away \*  
and go to rest in their dens.  
Man goes forth to his work, \*  
to labor till evening falls.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
— as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Ant. The Lord has brought forth bread from the earth, and wine to give warmth to men's hearts.**

**Ant. 3 The Lord looked upon all he had made and saw that it was very good.**

### III

How many are your works, O Lord! †  
In wisdom you have made them all. \*  
The earth is full of your riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide, †  
with its moving swarms past counting, \*  
living things great and small.  
The ships are moving there \*  
and the monsters you made to play with.

All of these look to you \*  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up: \*  
you open your hand, they have their fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed; †  
you take back your spirit, they die, \*  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created; \*  
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever! \*  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
He looks on the earth and it trembles; \*  
the mountains send forth smoke at his touch.

I will sing to the Lord all my life, \*  
make music to my God while I live.  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him. \*  
I find my joy in the Lord.  
Let sinners vanish from the earth \*  
and the wicked exist no more.

Bless the Lord, my soul.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
— as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Psalm Prayer

Father, as you made springs in valleys to form streams between mountains, so you made living streams of grace flow from the apostles that their teaching may bring salvation to all the nations. May we have a practical knowledge of their doctrine, be obedient to their commands, obtain remission of sins through their prayers, and finally receive the reward of eternal happiness.

**Ant. The Lord looked upon all he had made and saw that it was very good.**

When I am lifted up from the earth.

—I will draw all people to myself.

## READINGS

### First reading

#### From the letter to the Hebrews

*10:1-18 We are sanctified through the offering of Christ*

Since the law had only a shadow of the good things to come, and no real image of them, it was never able to perfect the worshipers by the same sacrifices offered continually year after year. Were matters otherwise, the priests would have stopped offering them, for the worshipers, once cleansed, would have had no sin on their conscience. But through those sacrifices there came only a yearly recalling of sins, because it is impossible for the



blood of bulls and goats to take sins away. Wherefore, on coming into the world, Jesus said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
Holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in.  
Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the book,  
I have come to do your will, O God.’”

First he says,

“Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings,  
you neither desired nor delighted in.”

(These are offered according to the prescriptions of the law.) Then he says,

“I have come to do your will.”

In other words, he takes away the first covenant to establish the second.

By his “will,” we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Every other priest stands ministering day by day, and offering again and again those same sacrifices which can never take away sins. But Jesus offered the one sacrifice for sins and took his seat forever at the right hand of God; now he waits until his enemies are placed beneath his feet. By one offering he has forever perfected those who are being sanctified. The Holy Spirit attests this to us, for after saying,

“This is the covenant I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord:  
I will put my laws in their hearts  
and I will write them on their minds,”

he also says,

“Their sins and their transgressions I will remember no more.”

Once these have been forgiven, there is no further offering for sin.

## **RESPONSORY**

See Hebrews 10:5, 6, 7, 4 (Psalm 40:7-8)

Sacrifice and offerings, you did not desire, but you prepared a body for me.  
Burnt offerings for sin could not please you. So I said:

– Here I am, Lord God, I come to do your will.

The blood of bulls and goats could never take away sins.  
When Christ came into the world he said:

– Here I am, Lord God, I come to do your will.

## **Second reading**

From a sermon by Saint Andrew of Crete, bishop

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.*

Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives. Today he returns from Bethany and proceeds of his own free will toward his holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of our salvation. He who came down from heaven to raise us from the depths of sin, to raise us with himself, we are told in Scripture, above every sovereignty, authority, and power, and every other name that can be named, now comes of his own free will to make his journey to Jerusalem. He comes without pomp or ostentation. As the psalmist says: He will not dispute or raise his voice to make it heard in the streets. He will be meek and humble, and he will make his entry in simplicity.

Let us run to accompany him as he hastens toward Jerusalem, and imitate those who met him then, not by covering his path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before him by being humble and by trying to live as he would wish. Then we shall be able to receive the Word at his coming, and God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us.

In his humility Christ entered the dark regions of our fallen world and he is glad that he became so humble for our sake, glad that he came and lived among us and shared in our nature in order to raise us up again to himself. And even though we are told that he has now ascended above the highest heavens—the proof, surely, of his power and godhead—his love for man will never rest until he has raised our earthbound nature from glory to glory, and made it one with his own in heaven.

So let us spread before his feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed

in his grace, or rather, clothed completely in him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of his victory. Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.

## **RESPONSORY**

See John 12:12, 13; Matthew 21:8, 9

When the people heard that Jesus was entering Jerusalem, they went out to meet him. Many spread their cloaks before him, while others took branches from the trees as they cried aloud:

— Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The crowd that went ahead of him, and the crowd that followed after cried out:

— Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

## PSALMODY

**Ant. 1 The great crowd that had gathered for the feast cried out to the Lord: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Psalm 118** **Song of joy for salvation**

*This Jesus is the stone which, rejected by you builders, has become the chief stone supporting all the rest (Acts 4:11).*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, \*  
for his love endures forever.

Let the sons of Israel say: \*

“His love endures for ever.”

Let the sons of Aaron say: \*

“His love endures for ever.”

Let those who fear the Lord say: \*

“His love endures for ever.”

I called to the Lord in my distress; \*

he answered and freed me.

The Lord is at my side; I do not fear. \*

What can man do against me?

The Lord is at my side as my helper: \*

I shall look down on my foes.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord \*

than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord \*

than to trust in princes.

The nations all encompassed me; \*  
in the Lord's name I crushed them.  
They compassed me, compassed me about; \*  
in the Lord's name I crushed them.  
They compassed me about like bees; †  
they blazed like a fire among thorns. \*  
In the Lord's name I crushed them.

I was hard-pressed and was falling \*  
but the Lord came to help me.  
The Lord is my strength and my song; \*  
he is my savior.  
There are shouts of joy and victory \*  
in the tents of the just.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; \*  
his right hand raised me.  
The Lord's right hand has triumphed; †  
I shall not die, I shall live \*  
and recount his deeds.  
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, \*  
but not doomed to die.

Open to me the gates of holiness: \*  
I will enter and give thanks.  
This is the Lord's own gate \*  
where the just may enter.  
I will thank you for you have answered \*  
and you are my savior.

The stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord, \*  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord; \*  
we rejoice and are glad.

O Lord, grant us salvation; \*  
O Lord, grant success.  
Blessed in the name of the Lord \*  
is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord; \*  
the Lord God is our light.

Go forward in procession with branches \*  
even to the altar.  
You are my God, I thank you. \*  
My God, I praise you.  
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; \*  
for his love endures for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
— as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### **Psalm Prayer**

Lord God, you have given us the great day of rejoicing: Jesus Christ, the stone rejected by the builders, has become the cornerstone of the Church, our spiritual home. Shed upon your Church the rays of your glory, that it may be seen as the gate of salvation open to all nations. Let cries of joy and exultation ring out from its tents, to celebrate the wonder of Christ's resurrection.

**Ant. The great crowd that had gathered for the feast cried out to the Lord: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Ant. 2 God grant that with the angels and the children we may be faithful, and sing with them to the conqueror of death: Hosanna in the highest.**

**Canticle: Daniel 3:52-57**

**Let all creatures praise the Lord**

*The Creator...is blessed for ever (Romans 1:25).*

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, \*  
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;

And blessed is your holy and glorious name, \*  
praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory, \*  
praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, \*  
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Blessed are you who look into the depths †  
from your throne upon the cherubim, \*  
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven, \*  
praiseworthy and glorious forever.



Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
praise and exalt him above all forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
– as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Ant. God grant that with the angels and the children we may be faithful  
and sing with them to the conqueror of death: Hosanna in the highest.**

**Ant. 3 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; peace in heaven  
and glory in the highest.**

**Psalm 150**  
**Praise the Lord**

*Let mind and heart be in your song: this is to glorify God with your whole self (Hesychius).*

Praise God in his holy place,  
praise him in his mighty heavens.  
Praise him for his powerful deeds,  
praise his surpassing greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet,  
praise him with lute and harp.  
Praise him with timbrel and dance,  
praise him with strings and pipes.

O praise him with resounding cymbals,  
praise him with clashing of cymbals.  
Let everything that lives and that breathes  
give praise to the Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
– as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## **Psalm Prayer**

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth and of all created things, you make your just ones holy and you justify sinners who confess your name. Hear us as we humbly pray to you: give us eternal joy with your saints.

**Ant. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

## **READING** Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass.

## RESPONSORY

By your own blood, Lord, you brought us back to God.

– By your own blood, Lord, you brought us back to God.

From every tribe, and tongue, and people and nation,

– you brought us back to God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

– By your own blood, Lord, you brought us back to God.

## CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

**Ant. With palms let us welcome the Lord as he comes, with songs and hymns let us run to meet him, as we offer him our joyful worship and sing: Blessed be the Lord!**

Luke 1:68 – 79

*The Messiah and his forerunner*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.

**Ant. With palms let us welcome the Lord as he comes, with songs and hymns let us run to meet him, as we offer him our joyful worship and sing: Blessed be the Lord!**

## INTERCESSIONS

As Christ entered Jerusalem he was greeted as King and Messiah. Let us adore him, and joyfully praise him:

– Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna to you, Son of David, King of the ages,

– hosanna to you, victor over death and the powers of darkness.

– Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

You went up to Jerusalem to suffer and so enter into your glory,

– bring your Church to the paschal feast of heaven.

– Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

You made the cross the tree of life,

– give its fruit to those reborn in baptism.

– Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Savior of mankind, you came to save sinners,

– bring into your kingdom all who have faith, hope and love.

– Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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.

## Concluding Prayer

Almighty, ever-living God,  
you have given the human race Jesus Christ our Savior  
as a model of humility.

He fulfilled your will  
by becoming man and giving his life on the cross.

Help us to bear witness to you  
by following his example of suffering  
and make us worthy to share his resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

— Amen.

**DISMISSAL:** May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to  
everlasting life.

— Amen.