

PALM SUNDAY

Lord, and help us to follow in
the way of obedience. Amen

Call to Worship

P: Let us worship God, the source
of love and life, who creates us;
Let us worship Jesus Christ, the
exalted one, who is with us;
Let us worship the Spirit, the holy
fire, who renews us.

**C: To the one true God be praise
in all times and places.
Hosanna in the highest! Amen!**

Confession

P: Like the people who greeted
Jesus as he entered Jerusalem
and then later pronounced
"Crucify him," we are fickle
people who often deny Jesus in
our thoughts, words, and
deeds.

Remembering the events of
Jesus' last week helps us see
ourselves for what we are:
sinners in need of a Savior, a
Savior – praise God – we have
in Christ. In honesty and hope,
we confess now our sins to
God.

**ALL: Loving God, you rode a
donkey and came in peace,
humbled yourself and gave
yourself for us. We confess our
lack of humility. As you entered
Jerusalem, the crowds shouted
"Crucify!" We confess our
praise is often empty. We sing
"Hosanna" but cry "Crucify." As
the crowds laid their palms in
front of you, you took no glory
for yourself. We confess that we
want to be accepted and take
the easy way. We do not stay
true to your will. Forgive us,**

Assurance | Absolution

P: Hear the Word of the Lord from
Psalm 118: *"Let those who fear
the Lord say, 'His steadfast love
endures forever.'"* (Psalm 118:4)

Psalm Psalm 118:19-21, 25-29

Prayer

P: O Lord Christ, as you once
entered Jerusalem, enter our
hearts this day afresh. As you
once set your face toward
death on a cross, help us this
day to walk with you to victory.
As the children once cried
"Hosanna" to bless you, enable
us to confess you openly as Lord
and Savior. Grant us your
presence by the power of the
Holy Spirit, that our worship and
our lives may truly honor you.

C: Amen.

Reading John 12:12-19

Profession of Faith

(from Philippians 2:5-11)

**We believe... Christ Jesus, though
he was in the form of God, did
not regard equality with God as
something to be exploited, but
emptied himself, taking the form
of a slave, being born in human
likeness. And being found in
human form he humbled himself
and became obedient to the
point of death – even death on a
cross. Therefore God highly
exalted him and gave him the
name that is above every name,**

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus is Lord! Amen!

Offering

Sermon *Philippians 2:1-11*
"Have this mind..."

Prayer

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Doxology

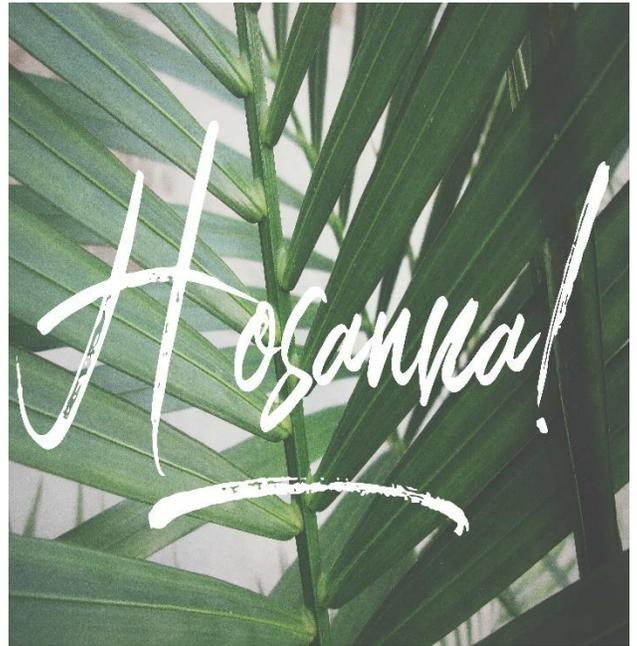
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Benediction

Going Forth

P: The worship is over.

C: Let the service begin!



Palm Sunday Affirmation:

What a strange paradox; the King is coming, the people rejoice, singing 'Hosanna in the highest!' yet fail to understand that the King they welcome is the Servant King, the King who washes his disciples' feet, the King who came not with an army but a weapon so powerful that not even death could resist, the sacrificial love of God laid out upon a Cross.

Lord God, as we sing our 'Hosannas' today may we remember also that which you were riding toward: the suffering and rejection, pain and humiliation, the cruel Cross. And let us look forward to the joy of Easter Day when you rose from death to reign forever. Help us, as we daily lay our lives before you, to live the resurrection life that acknowledges Jesus as Lord and King over our lives.

Bethany Lutheran Church

1655 Boulevard
West Hartford, Connecticut 06107
860-521-5076
Nursery School: 860-521-8782
www.blcwh.org