

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader King Jesus comes,
King Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah.
All **Hail! King Jesus, King of all!**
Leader Recall the words of the Scriptures:
“A great crowd who had come to the feast heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!’”
All **In praise we adore you, King Jesus.**
Enter our hearts today as you entered Jerusalem long ago,
and lead us by faith to your cross and resurrection. Amen!

—based on Jn. 12:13

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION / WORDS. F. FRANZEN; ARR. REINDEER TRIBE

1. Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory
foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name!

2. He brings God’s rule, O Zion,
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding
for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name!

3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion,
your Savior’s rule embrace!
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before Him,
their voices will adore Him.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God’s most holy name!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

All: We praise you, O God,
for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ.
He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph
and was proclaimed Messiah and King
by those who spread garments
and branches along his way.
May we welcome your Son now
and follow him in the way of the cross
that, dying and rising with him,
we may enter into your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen!**

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

COME CHRISTIANS JOIN TO SING / C. BATEMAN

1. Come, Christians, join to sing;
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!

2. Come, lift your hearts on high;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky;
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
to us He’ll condescend;
His love shall never end.
Alleluia! Amen!

3. Praise yet our Christ again;
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven’s blissful shore,
His goodness we’ll adore,
singing forevermore,
Alleluia! Amen!

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS / M. BRIDGES; F. ORTEGA

1. Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heavenly anthem
drowns, all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing,
of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King,
through all eternity.

2. Crown Him the Lord of love,
behold His hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky,
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye,
at mysteries so bright.

3. Crown Him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o’er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife,
for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

4. Crown Him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never,
never fail through all eternity.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious God,
we thankfully remember the life of our Lord Jesus Christ on this earth.
Yet we also acknowledge our failure to respond faithfully to his witness.
We often mistake Jesus for a mere earthly king,
friendly companion, or problem-solver,
failing to see him as the ruler of all creation and the true desire of our hearts.
We do not appreciate the depth of his passion and sacrifice on the cross,
failing to acknowledge him as our way of salvation.
Even in this Lenten season, we have not walked faithfully in the way of Jesus Christ.
Forgive us and by your Spirit bring us ever more fully
into the joy of union with your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence is kept together

SONG OF ASSURANCE

HOW LONG / BIFROST ARTS

How long, will You turn Your face away?
How long, do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way, how long?
How long, till Your children find their rest?
How long, till You draw them to Your breast?
We go on, holding to Your promises, how long?
Till You wipe away the tears from every eye
Till we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain? Jesus give us hope again
How long, till Your word will still the storm?
How long, till You bear Your mighty arm?
How we groan, till You snatch us from the thorns, how long?
How long, sweet the dawn that ends the race?
How long, weak our hearts but strong our legs?
Looking on, great the cloud of witnesses, how long?

WORDS OF COMFORT & ASSURANCE

Leader Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord! For Christ came into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world through him should be saved. Therefore, be imita-
tors of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us
and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Hosanna! Amen!

—based on Mt. 21:8-9; Jn 3:17; Eph. 5:1-2

All Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
Together And also with you!

** Children ages 2 to 5th grade are invited to participate in our children’s program during the sermon; children return for Communion.*

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

**During the offertory, we consider all that we have and all that God may be asking us to give. Please take this time to ask God how you might give of your financial gifts, personal time and even vocational calling. There are different ways to give. You may mail your offering to our office address: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA 91101; or give via our website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 12:12-19 (ESV)

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵ “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glori-
fied, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had
been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus
out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The
reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this
sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining noth-
ing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE

Ben Ewen

“The Triumphal Entry”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Son of David,
you entered Jerusalem with a triumphal procession
that left you alone and in humiliation on the cross.

**All We thank and praise you for your selfless sacrifice,
for the redemption of creation,
for those who offer their lives in Christlike service,
for your work as it continues in our community,
for the sacrificial love of those who serve us in your name,
and for our redemption and the renewal of all things. Silence**

Leader The cries of “Hosanna!” soon turned into cries of “Crucify him!”
Today too there are those who refuse to recognize you as King.
The effects of sin continue to be felt in all of life.

**All So we pray for creation,
for the nations of the world,
for our nation and its leaders,
for this community
and those who are in authority,
for the church universal as it works on your behalf,
for this local church in its ministry,
and for all who suffer in spirit, mind, and body. Silence**

Leader Lord of our tears, we remember before you today
The Covenant School, Covenant Presbyterian Church,
and all who are grieving unspeakable loss.
We also remember those in our community
and elsewhere whose lives have been upended by violence.
We lament the shattering of lives and your shalom.
We cry once again, “How long, oh Lord? How long?” *Silence*

In our cries, confusion, doubt, and anger,
make your presence known.
For this, oh Lord, we pray.

All Lord of resurrection, hear our prayer. Amen.

COMMUNION PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

For those searching: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Give me not only understanding, but also an experience of your love and presence. Amen.

For faith and belief: Lord Jesus, I am weak and sinful, but you call me beloved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death and offering forgiveness and renewal. I hear you calling, and so I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Amen.

For those struggling with sin: Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, to ask for help, and to follow you faithfully in life. Amen.

SONGS OF RESPONSE & CELEBRATION

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader As we leave this place and enter a week in which busy activities and worshipful remembrance are intertwined, may God the Spirit teach us, how to make every day a day of prayer, so that each day of our lives is filled with hope because of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

May our Lord, whose arms were spread on the cross to embrace the whole world, help us this week and always to take up the cross and follow him.

All Thanks be to God! Amen!

LOVING OUR CITY & NEIGHBORS

The season of Lent calls us to find ourselves by turning to God and to others. If you’re already not familiar with our city ministry partners, would you take some time this Lent to learn about them and consider how you might join their work of loving our neighbors right here in our city? In the same way, could you get to know our Park Ministry and consider how you might support it? Information and opportunities are available at the Mercy Table in the lobby. Let’s keep a holy Lent together!

- **Door of Hope:** visit <https://doorofhope.us>
- **Elizabeth House:** visit <https://www.elizabethhouse.net>
- **Olive Crest:** visit <https://www.olivecrest.org>
- **Pasadena Park Ministry:** email Kelly at mercy@gracepasadena.org

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **TODAY AFTER THE SERVICE:** Congregational Meeting to review 2023 budget
 - **Holy Week**
 - 4/2: Palm Sunday Service
 - 4/7: Good Friday Service @ 6PM
 - 4/9: Easter Celebration in the Park @10AM
 - Family Easter Celebration before the service @ 9AM
 - Church + Community Potluck after the service (sign up here to bring something: bit.ly/3kE8SyP)
- Scan the QR code below for more details, other announcements and contact information!



KIDS’ CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

Parents and guardians, please use the QR code below to check in your kids for children’s church. Likewise, when kids return to the service, use the same QR code to check out your kids. This helps teachers and our children’s ministry director know your kids have been safely received. Please note that check-in and check-out can be done without a smartphone; find Abbey at the children’s table for more information and directions.



GRACE PASADENA’S VISION STATEMENT

Grace Pasadena exists to **Experience** & **Extend** the life-giving grace of God

- **As** we grow in the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- **In** every sphere of life
- **For** our neighborhoods, city and the world

GRACE PASADENA’S CORE VALUES

God-Centered Worship – We seek to be transformed in worship as we experience the wonder of God and respond appropriately

Gospel-Driven Identity – We seek a personal experience of the gospel that both humbles us, and assures us that we are more deeply valued and loved by God than we can possibly imagine

Outward-Facing Community – We seek the betterment of our city as we extend God’s grace by loving our neighbors as ourselves

Kingdom-Minded Movement – We seek to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by creating community and global partnerships that can reach and serve those in need

GIVING & BUDGET

	JAN-DEC ‘22	JAN-FEB ‘23*	MAR ‘23*
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$546,803	\$60,751	\$35,530
BUDGETED GIVING _____	501,000	78,000	39,000
DIFFERENCE _____	+45,803	-17,249	-3,470

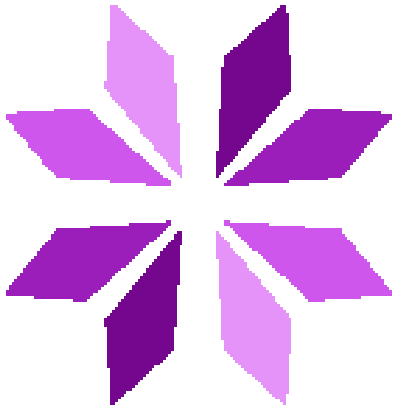
* as of 3/30/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



(626) 653-6036 (voicemail or text) | info@gracepasadena.org | www.gracepasadena.org

Mailing/Office Address:
16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609
Pasadena, CA 91101

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“[It’s] important to capture the irony of the day. This is the day on which Jesus entered the city in triumph, but as a part of his journey to the cross; this is the week in which the crowd’s cries of ‘Hosanna’ would soon turn to ‘Crucify him!’”

THE WORSHIP SOURCEBOOK

“For Christ’s kingship over Israel was not for the purpose of exacting tribute, of putting swords into His soldiers’ hands, of subduing His enemies by open warfare; but He was King of Israel in exercising kingly authority over their inward natures, in consulting for their eternal interests, in bringing into His heavenly kingdom those whose faith, and hope, and love were centred in Himself. Accordingly, for the Son of God, the Father’s equal, the Word by whom all things were made, in His good pleasure to be King of Israel, was an act of condescension and not of promotion; a token of compassion, and not any increase of power. For He who was called on earth the King of the Jews, is in the heavens the Lord of angels.”

ST. AUGUSTINE

“It is one thing to tell God that we are anxious about the future. It is another to ask him to reveal the future to us. The first is a confession; the second is a petition. Both confession and petition are facets of prayer, but while our confessions of anxiety or sin are always godly, not all of our anxious petitions are. In the case of asking God for knowledge of the future, we should be circumspect. That knowledge belongs to the secret things of God (Deut. 29:29). Those who seek to use prayer as a crystal ball forget their calling to walk by faith and not by sight, and they forget the benediction of Christ: ‘Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29).’”

JEN WILKIN

PALM SUNDAY
THE LAST SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER
APRIL 2, 2023