



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

March 29, 2026

Holy Week · Palm Sunday

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“As we arrive at Jerusalem with Jesus, the question presses upon us. Are we going along for the trip in the hope that Jesus will fulfill some of our hopes and desires? Are we ready to sing a psalm of praise, but only as long as Jesus seems to be doing what we want? The long and dusty pilgrim way of our lives gives most of us plenty of time to sort out our motives for following Jesus in the first place. Are we ready not only to spread our cloaks on the road in front of him, to do the showy and flamboyant thing, but also now to follow him into trouble, controversy, trial and death?”

—N. T. WRIGHT

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, in tender love towards mankind you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon him and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his suffering, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

GOSPEL: Luke 22:14-23:56

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Instrumental Prelude

Ben Sellick

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulf, Bishop of Orléans · J.M. Neale

All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessed One.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Zechariah 9 and Psalm 118

LEADER Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

PEOPLE **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!**

LEADER Behold, your king comes to you;

PEOPLE **Triumphant and victorious is he,**

LEADER Humble and riding on a donkey,

PEOPLE **On a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

LEADER Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
LORD.

PEOPLE **Hosanna in the highest!**

HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulf, Bishop of Orléans · J.M. Neale

All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessed One.

The company of angels is praising you on high;
And we with all creation in chorus make reply.
The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
For you delight in goodness, O good and gracious King!

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Psalm 32

Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

LEADER Hear and receive the good news of the gospel:
 in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL
 Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LEADER The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL **And also with you.**

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY

Central continues the practice of taking a special collection each year during Palm Sunday. This collection is used exclusively to provide short-term financial assistance to those in need within our church community and will be administered by our deacons. As we recall the grace that has been lavished upon us through the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, we have the opportunity to extend the generosity of God to those in need within our city and beyond.

*You can give online by texting **centralchurchnyc** to **833-737-6262** or visiting **centralchurchnyc.org/give**.*

For this special offering, ensure that the fund is set to “Financial Assistance Fund.”

HYMN

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Charles Wesley · John Darwall

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore!
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er Earth and Heav'n.
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge shall come,
And take his servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

All preschool and elementary age children are invited to the front of the church and will be dismissed to Children's Church with their teachers where they will read, sing, learn, and play in an environment suited to their language and style. Alternatively, children are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary to worship alongside the adults for the duration of the service.

OFFERING

If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give. For members and regular attenders of Central, give as generously as you are able. We give because all we have has been graciously given to us by God. Our offerings express our joyful dependence upon God and our commitment to join God in his work of renewal.

*You can give online by texting **centralchurchnyc** to **833-737-6262** or visiting [centralchurchnyc.org/give](https://www.centralchurchnyc.org/give).*

For general giving, be sure to switch the fund to "Program Operating Fund."

OFFERTORY - 10:00 AND 11:30 A.M. SERVICES

Ride On, King Jesus

Traditional, arr. Moses Hogan

Ride on, King Jesus.

Ride on, the conquerin' king.

Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, ride on.

No man can hinder thee.

I was but young when I begun.

But now my race is almost done. *Chorus*

King Jesus rides a milk-white horse.

The river of Jordan he did cross. *Chorus*

He's the King and the Lord of all.

No man can hinder thee.

He's the first and the last.

He's the Lord of Lords.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

No man can hinder thee.

Oh, ride on, King Jesus.

Ride on, just ride on, Jesus.

Ride on, Jesus!

OFFERTORY - 5:00 P.M. SERVICE

Sing to Jesus

Fernando Ortega · Rich Nibbe

Come and see, look on this mystery:
The Lord of the universe, nailed to a tree.
Christ our God, spilling his holy blood,
Bowing in anguish his sacred head.

Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame.
Lord of our sinful hearts, he is our great Redeemer.
Sing to Jesus, honor his name.
Sing of his faithfulness, pouring his life out unto death.

Come you weary and he will give you rest.
Come you who mourn, lay on his breast.
Christ who died, risen in paradise,
Giver of mercy, Giver of life.

Sing to Jesus, his is the throne.
Now and forever, he is the King of Heaven.
Sing to Jesus, we are his own.
Now and forever, sing for the love our God has shown.

Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame.
Lord of our sinful hearts, he is our great Redeemer.
Sing to Jesus, honor His name.

Sing to Jesus, his is the throne.
Now and forever, he is the King of Heaven.
Sing to Jesus, we are his own.
Now and forever, sing for the love our God has shown.

THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth LM

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 11:1-23

The passage can be found on page 847 of the pew Bible.

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

¹²On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴And he said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it.

¹⁵And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹⁶And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. ¹⁷And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.” ¹⁸And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. ¹⁹And when evening came they went out of the city.

²⁰As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” ²²And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. ²³Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.”

SERMON

A Day in the Life of Jesus | The Day Jesus Cursed a Tree

Rev. Dr. Jay Harvey (AM services)

Robert Cone (PM service)

THE THANKSGIVING

LEADER

Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE

We lift them up to the Lord.

LEADER

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

LEADER

It is indeed right, our duty and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this, your Table, O Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but solely in your great mercy. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table, but you are the same Lord who always delights in showing mercy. Grant us, therefore gracious Lord, that we who now receive these gifts of bread and wine, according to our Savior's Word, may share in the body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, that we may dwell in him forever and he in us. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus Christ, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I acknowledge that you are so holy and I am so sinful that you had to die for me. Yet you are so merciful and I am so loved that you were willing to die for me. I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what I have done and by what I have failed to do. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, I know that if I do not love you with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength, I shall love something else with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Grant that by loving you first I may be liberated from all lesser loves and loyalties and have you as my first love, my chief good, and my final joy. Amen.

Communion is served with wine and gluten-free bread. Individually wrapped wafers and grape juice are available at each station.

COMMUNION HYMN

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This Gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine;
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand.
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from his hand;
'Til he returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

THE 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 debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever,
Amen.

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

LEADER Let us go forth to serve the world as those who
 love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ALL **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Members of our prayer team will be available immediately following the service at the front of the sanctuary to pray confidentially for you about any need or concern you might have. We encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity to receive prayer. ☞

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to fill out this year's congregational survey at centralchurchnyc.org/survey.