

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.

(from ministrymatter.com)

Hymn All Glory Laud and Honor

Joys and Concerns

Lord's Prayer

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-2, 10-12, 21:1-10 (The Message)

Matthew 5:1-2 The Message (MSG)

You're Blessed

5 ¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

¹⁰ "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

¹¹⁻¹² "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, / do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Matthew 21:1-11 The Message (MSG)

The Royal Welcome

21 ¹⁻³ When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you."

⁴⁻⁵ This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet:

Tell Zion's daughter,
"Look, your king's on his way,
poised and ready, mounted
On a donkey, on a colt,
foal of a pack animal."

⁶⁻⁹The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!" "Blessed is he who comes in God's name!" "Hosanna in highest heaven!"

Homily

Closing Hymn

Hosanna Loud Hosanna!