



*This cactus is confused. It thinks it's Christmas!
Maybe it is.*

Please Listen and Sing (see Order for Worship below): [All Glory, Laud and Honor](#)

Palm Sunday, April 5th

[Video Scene: John 12:12-16](#)

from the Film: [The Gospel of John \(entire film here\)](#)
(Initial release: September 26th, 2003. Director: Philip Saville.
Narrator: Christopher Plummer.
Producer: Garth Drabinsky.)



by John August Swanson

CRY BLESSÉD

([Luke 19:28-40](#); [John 12:12-16](#))

Now comes the giver of peace to the troubled,
now comes the bringer of hope to the weak;
now comes the healer with strength for the hurting;
rides on a donkey the king that we seek.

Now comes the hen to the den of the foxes,
now come the gentle wings open and wide
to comfort the fearful, gather the lost ones;
wings pierced with nails, a wound in the side.

Now comes the Word who is good news among us,
now comes the Shepherd who lays down his life;
behold him, the Lamb of God's saving mercy;
the Light against whom the darkness will rise.

Blesséd the One who brings God's love and justice;
blesséd the One who calls us to the same;
blesséd the One who can break death's dominion;
blesséd the One who has come in God's name.

Lift high the branches, the palm leaves of praising;
cover with garments of praise the hard ground;
soon comes betrayal, too soon the injustice;
too soon the grief and forgotten the song.

Cry "blesséd!" the One who goes through the trial,
cry "blesséd!" the One who suffers the pain;
cry "blesséd!" the One who bleeds God's forgiveness.
Cry "blesséd!" the One who's with us in God's name.

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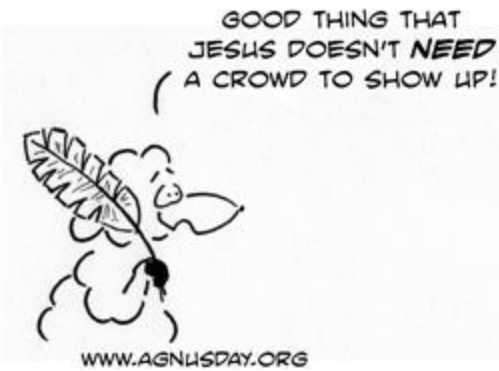
An Order for Worship for Palm Sunday:

 [Palm Sunday April 5 2020.pdf](#)

Palm Sunday Passion Reading:

 [Palm Sunday Passion Reading.pdf](#)

Palms are refrigerated and will be distributed when we can be gathered again.



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Please listen and sing:

[God of Grace and God of Glory](#)

View and Listen to John 11:1-45...

[Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead](#)

[\(Baptism from Death to Life\)](#)

[John 11:1-45](#)

[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#); [Psalm 130](#); [Romans 8:6-11](#)

Then You may Want to View and Listen to...

"An Easter Odyssey:

A Message from a Meandering Me"

[Part 1: Greetings, Prayers and Hope for Well-Being](#)

[Part 2: Waiting for Easter \("Death Be not Proud"\)](#)

A baptism into virtual reality... A novice in the wilderness.

Please sing:

[O God Our Help in Ages Past!](#)



A Ray of Light in Our Darkness:

[Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Riverside](#)

...for sermons, worship folders, recent news, newsletters, videos and more.

Worshiping at Home: For Use on Sundays at House Church

A Prayer for a Time of Anxiety

It seems that I return to you most easily when I need comfort.

O God. Hello... here I am again, knowing that you are waiting for me with love and warming light.

I find respite and relief that feeds my innermost self and renews my soul.

Day and night, you are my refuge.

These uncertain days of news conferences and quarantines tempt me to assume the worst for my loved ones, myself and my community.

“Pandemic” is a frightening word, and I can easily feel confused or helpless to respond.

Now I am relying on you to lead and guide me, to put my anxiety in its place.

Help me see it as a human response that keeps me conscious of the seriousness of this moment,

but do not let it overwhelm my spirit.

Buoyed by your love, I choose each day to let peace reign in me.

Breathing deeply of your calm, I repeat, again and again, “You are here.”

Good and gracious Companion, my family and friends need tranquility and assurance.

Help me to offer them your tenderness.

Those in my community who are suffering need care.

Help me to be generous and to keep contact with the forgotten.

Our world calls for cooperation among national leaders, scientists, health care providers,

and all who are instrumental in overcoming this crisis.

May my prayers and support be with them all.

I have come back to you, and I will return, knowing that your open arms will never fail.

God of hope, may your love blanket the earth, as you teach us to live more generously today than yesterday.

May my anxiety be transformed into love. Amen.

(from *Diakonia* newsletter)

---submitted by Charles Matthies



And Listen:

[Ride On, Ride On in Majesty](#)

“Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Christ, hear us. In mercy hear us. God, the Father in heaven, have mercy on us. God, the Son, redeemer of the world, have mercy on us. God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us. Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us. Be gracious to us. Spare us, good Lord...”
(from the opening verses of The Litany, *Lutheran Book of Worship*, pages 168ff).

Please consider praying (and singing) [The Litany](#) in your homes during the evening hours.