

"TAKE 10"- Worship While Away! (Sunday, April 13, 2025)

Share:

On this day, Jesus marched
**in between the city walls and the Temple,
in between joyful hosannas and doubtful whispers,
in between oppressive poverty and greedy power,
in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.**

On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.

So may we meet Christ in that liminal space.

May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in between!

Read these words from a hymn:

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

**A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare,
and hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air.**

**They laid their garments in the road and spread his path with palms
and vows of lasting love bestowed with royal hymns and palms.**

**When day dimmed down to deepening dark the crowd began to fade
till only trampled leaves and bark were left from the parade.**

**Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged with passing praise,
remind us, God, as this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.**

**Instead of palms, a winding sheet will have to be unrolled,
a carpet much more fit to greet the king a cross will hold.**

Read this scripture from worship:

Isaiah 50:4-9a, *The Message*

The Master, God, has given me a well-taught tongue,

So I know how to encourage tired people. He wakes me up in the morning,

Wakes me up, opens my ears to listen as one ready to take orders.

The Master, God, opened my ears, and I didn't go back to sleep, didn't pull the covers
back over my head. I followed orders, stood there and took it while they beat me,

held steady while they pulled out my beard, didn't dodge their insults, faced them as
they spit in my face.

And the Master, God, stays right there and helps me, so I'm not disgraced. Therefore, I
set my face like flint, confident that I'll never regret this. My champion is right here.

Let's take our stand together! Who dares bring suit against me? Let him try!

Look! the Master, God, is right here. Who would dare call me guilty?

Luke 19:28-40, *The Message*

²⁸⁻³¹ After saying these things, Jesus headed straight up to Jerusalem. When he got
near Bethphage and Bethany at the mountain called Olives, he sent off two of the
disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter,
you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone
says anything, asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'His Master needs him.'"

³²⁻³³ The two left and found it just as he said. As they were untying the colt, its owners said, “What are you doing untying the colt?”

³⁴ They said, “His Master needs him.”

³⁵⁻³⁶ They brought the colt to Jesus. Then, throwing their coats on its back, they helped Jesus get on. As he rode, the people gave him a grand welcome, throwing their coats on the street. ³⁷⁻³⁸ Right at the crest, where Mount Olives begins its descent, the whole crowd of disciples burst into enthusiastic praise over all the mighty works they had witnessed: Blessed is he who comes, the king in God’s name! All’s well in heaven! Glory in the high places!

³⁹ Some Pharisees from the crowd told him, “Teacher, get your disciples under control!”

⁴⁰ But he said, “If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise.”

Talk together:

- ✂ How would you describe the type of kingship Jesus embodies? Is this in accord with what people might have expected?
- ✂ When have you lifted your voice in exultant praise? Have you ever joined in shouting and singing with a crowd during a political march or rally?
- ✂ Why do the Pharisees want the crowds to be silenced? What do they fear?
- ✂ Can you think of a time in your life when, like the Pharisees, you were appropriately silenced?
- ✂ Jesus enters the holy in-between of his final days before he departs from this world. His entry marks the beginning of the end. Do you think his silence helped steady and prepare him for what was to come?
- ✂ Have you ever experienced divine silence or silence that restored you in some way?
- ✂ As you enter Holy Week, how will you bring all of yourself—your praise, your reverence, your grief, and everything in between?

Pray together:

Speaking God, most days we are inundated with noise.

Some of it is good—laughter, music, storytelling. Some of it is hard—arguments, slurs, the sound of bomber planes. Every day we live between silence and shouting, rotating through quiet and noise. So, amid this messy middle, help us to hear what is yours.

Help us to hear your song, your story, your good news. Help us to hear your voice, your Spirit, your will. And show us how to set aside and release the rest. We are listening, as we lift up our heads and our hearts. Through Christ, our coming King, we pray. Amen.

Resources Used:

Call to Worship

Glory to God

Sanctified Art

The Message