

SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR 4-5-2020
Palm Sunday

- **Opening Psalm – Psalm 24¹**

- **Sing songs of praise** – Palm Sunday is certainly a day to celebrate and to sing! For Palm Sunday, I recommend singing (or reading) the following:
 - *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*, (LUYH #145; Grey Psalter #378 ; Blue Psalter #349)
 - *All Glory, Laud and Honor* (LUYH #146; Grey #375; Blue #348)

- **Pray for God’s presence and blessing:**
Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you have adopted us as your children,
you have lavished your grace upon us through your Word.
May all we do here equip us for ministry,
build us up as the body of Christ,
strengthen our unity in faith,
deepen our knowledge of Jesus, our Lord,
and help us to grow into maturity as your children,
reflecting the full stature of Christ. Amen.²

- **Read the story of the Triumphal Entry – Matthew 21:1-11**

- **Read the Summary of the Law – Matthew 22:34-40**

- **Read Belgic Confession Article 25 – *The Fulfillment of the Law***
We believe that the ceremonies and symbols of the law have ended with the coming of Christ, and that all foreshadowings have come to an end, so that the use of them ought to be abolished among Christians. Yet the truth and substance of these things remain for us in Jesus Christ, in whom they have been fulfilled.
Nevertheless, we continue to use the witnesses drawn from the law and prophets to confirm us in the gospel and to regulate our lives with full integrity for the glory of God, according to his will.³

¹ If you have young children, you could, in celebration of Palm Sunday, find leaves or branches (real or artificial) for your children to wave during the reading of the Psalm and/or the singing of the songs.

² Adapted from LUYH #529 – based on Eph. 4:12-13

³ I have included Article 25 in the liturgy partly because we have been going through this section of the Belgic Confession in our Lent sermon series, but we are not going to have a sermon on Article 25. This article is still full of great truth about what Jesus has done and actually fits in with the sermon for this week. It can be a bit tricky for children to understand, so parents might want to spend a minute or two explaining it. You can simply say something like, “In the Old Testament times, God had his people sacrifice animals and follow a lot of other laws about what they could and couldn’t eat and stuff like that. Do you know why we don’t have to do those things now? It’s because all of those laws and sacrifices were supposed to help the people know what God was going to do with Jesus. He was the LAMB of God. And his death was the most important sacrifice. Since Jesus died, we don’t have to follow all of those laws. But we still should know them because they help us to know more about Jesus.”

- **Read or sing a song of thanksgiving:** Suggestions:
 - Psalm 116
 - *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (LUYH #348; Grey #556; Blue #408)

- **Say a prayer of intercession.**
 The LUYH Hymnal has a list of prompting questions that can be used to gather requests for prayer. This list might be helpful for you as you consider what to pray for.
 - For which divine actions or attributes shall we bless God?
 - For which blessings shall we thank God?
 - For which aspects of biblical teaching shall we thank God?
 - For which country or region of the world shall we pray?
 - For which ministry shall we pray?
 - For which other congregations shall we pray?
 - For which aspects of congregational life shall we pray?
 - For which concerns in our town or city shall we pray?
 - For which personal concerns shall we pray?

- **Read or Recite Psalm 119:9-16**

- **Read a prayer for the illumination of the Word:**
 Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

- **Watch the sermon on Facebook:** www.facebook.com/crclucas

- **Sing a Song of Response,** Suggestions:
 - *In Christ Alone* (LUYH #770)
 - *At the Name of Jesus* (LUYH #220; Grey #467; Blue #372 [old tune])

- **Close with prayer,** (or sing as a closing prayer)⁴
 God of Grace and God of Glory, on your people pour your power.
 crown your ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour.

 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
 let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore.
 Amen.

⁴ *God of Grace and God of Glory*; words by Harry Fosdick. LUYH #926

ARTICLE 26: THE INTERCESSION OF CHRIST – PART 1

We believe that we have no access to God
except through the one and only Mediator and
Intercessor:

Jesus Christ the Righteous.

He therefore was made man,
uniting together the divine and human natures,
so that we human beings might have access to
the divine Majesty.

Otherwise we would have no access.

But this Mediator,
whom the Father has appointed between himself
and us,

ought not terrify us by his greatness,
so that we have to look for another one,
according to our fancy.

For neither in heaven nor among the creatures
on earth

is there anyone who loves us
more than Jesus Christ does.

Although he was “in the form of God,”
he nevertheless “emptied himself,”
taking the form of “a man” and “a servant” for us;
and he made himself “completely like his
brothers.”

Suppose we had to find another intercessor.

Who would love us more than he who gave his
life for us,

even though “we were his enemies”?

And suppose we had to find one who has
prestige and power.

Who has as much of these as he who is seated
“at the right hand of the Father,”

and who has all power

“in heaven and on earth”?

And who will be heard more readily
than God’s own dearly beloved Son?

So then, sheer unbelief has led to the practice
of dishonoring the saints,
instead of honoring them.

That was something the saints never did nor
asked for,

but which in keeping with their duty,
as appears from their writings,
they consistently refused.

We should not plead here
that we are unworthy—

for it is not a question of offering our prayers
on the basis of our own dignity
but only on the basis of the excellence and
dignity

of Jesus Christ,
whose righteousness is ours
by faith.

ARTICLE 26: THE INTERCESSION OF CHRIST - PART 2

Since the apostle for good reason
wants us to get rid of this foolish fear—
or rather, this unbelief—
he says to us that Jesus Christ
was “made like his brothers in all things,”
that he might be a high priest
who is merciful and faithful
to purify the sins of the people.
For since he suffered,
being tempted,
he is also able to help those
who are tempted.
And further,
to encourage us more
to approach him
he says,
“Since we have a high priest,
Jesus the Son of God,
who has entered into heaven,
we maintain our confession.
For we do not have a high priest
who is unable to have compassion for our
weaknesses,
but one who was tempted in all things,
just as we are,
except for sin.
Let us go then
with confidence
to the throne of grace
that we may obtain mercy
and find grace,
in order to be helped.”

The same apostle says that
we “have liberty to enter into the holy place
by the blood of Jesus.
Let us go, then, in the assurance
of faith....”
Likewise,
“Christ’s priesthood is forever.
By this he is able to save completely
those who draw near to God through him
who always lives to intercede
for them.”
What more do we need?
For Christ himself declares:
“I am the way, the truth, and the life;
no one comes to my Father
but by me.”
Why should we seek
another intercessor?
Since it has pleased God
to give us his Son as our Intercessor,
let us not leave him for another—
or rather seek, without ever finding.
For when God gave him to us
he knew well that we were sinners.
Therefore,
in following the command of Christ
we call on the heavenly Father
through Christ,
our only Mediator,
as we are taught by the Lord’s Prayer,
being assured that we shall obtain
all we ask of the Father
in his name.