

Palm Sunday Service Texts

Verses on Lord I Call

Tone 6

The grace of the Holy Spirit
today has assembled us.

Taking up Thy Cross we sing:

“Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!//

Hosanna in the highest!”

Today the Word of God the Father,
the co-eternal Son,

Whose throne is heaven and Whose footstool is earth,
humbles Himself and comes from Bethany,
riding on a dumb beast, the foal of an ass.

The children of the Hebrews hold branches in their hands.

They praise Him crying out:

“Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He that comes, the King of Israel!”

O new Israel, church of the Gentiles,

assemble today and sing with the Prophet Zechariah:

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, thy King is coming to thee!

He is meek, bearing salvation,
riding on the colt of an ass.”

Celebrate with the children, holding palms in thy hands:

“Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He that comes, the King of Israel!”

By Thy command, O loving Lord,

Thou didst raise Lazarus Thy friend from death.

His flesh had been given over to corruption,
and he was in the power of death four days.

By this, Thou didst foretell Thy holy Resurrection for us.

Today, Thou dost mount an untamed colt as Thy chariot,
foretelling the conversion of the Gentiles.

Thy beloved Israel offers Thee a hymn of praise

from the mouths of innocent children,
as they see Thee enter the Holy City, O Christ, //
six days before the Feast of Passover.

Six days before the Feast of Passover
Jesus entered Bethany.
His disciples asked Him:
“Where should we prepare for Thee to eat the Passover?”
He answered: “When you have entered the city,
a man carrying a jar of water will meet you.
Follow him into the house which he enters,
and tell the master of the house:
‘The Teacher says to thee: //
Here I shall eat the Passover with My disciples.’”

Tone 6

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today has assembled us.
Taking up Thy Cross we sing:
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Old Testament Readings (should be read from LXX texts)

Genesis 49:1-2,8-12 (Vespers, 1st reading)

1

And Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

2

“Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father.

8

“Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father’s children shall bow down before you.

9

Judah is a lion’s whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?

10

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

11

Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

12

His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.

Zephaniah 3:14-19 (Vespers, 2nd reading)

14

Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

15

The Lord has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more.

16

In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.

17

The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

18

"I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, Who are among you, To whom its reproach is a burden.

19

Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, And gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame In every land where they were put to shame.

Zechariah 9:9-15 (Vespers, 3rd reading)

9

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

10

And he shall destroy the chariots out of Ephraim, and the horse out of Jerusalem, and the bow of war shall be utterly destroyed; and there shall be abundance and peace out of the nations. And he shall rule over the waters from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

11

And you, by the blood of your covenant, have sent forth your prisoners out of the pit that has no water.

12

You shall sit in strongholds, you prisoners of the assembly; and for one day of your sojourning I will recompense you double.

13

For I have bent you for Myself like a bow, O Judah, I have filled it with Ephraim; and I will raise up your children, O Zion, against the children of the Greeks, and handle you like the sword of a warrior.

14

And the Lord shall be over them, and His arrow shall go forth like lightning. And the Lord God Almighty shall sound the trumpet and go forth in the noise of His threatening.

¹⁵

The Lord Almighty shall defend them!

Litya

Tone 1

The Holy Spirit taught the Apostles to speak in many strange languages.
He also inspired the innocent Hebrew children to sing:
“Hosanna in the highest!//
Blessed is He that comes, the King of Israel!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 3

Six days before the feast of Passover
Jesus came to Bethany.
He restored Lazarus to life,
announcing the coming resurrection.
Martha and Mary met Him, crying:
“Lord, if Thou hadst been here, our brother would not have died!”
But Jesus answered them,
“Have I not already told you:
If anyone believes in Me,
even if he dies, he shall live?
Show Me the place where you buried him.” //
Then the Creator of all cried out to him: “Lazarus, come forth!”

Aposticha

Tone 8

Rejoice and be glad, O City of Zion!
Exult and be joyful, O Church of God!
Thy King is coming in righteousness.
He rides on a colt, the foal of an ass.
The children sing His praises:
“Hosanna in the highest! //
Blessed art Thou, O greatly merciful One! Have mercy on us!”

Today the Savior comes to Jerusalem,
fulfilling the Scriptures.
He is greeted with palms and a carpet of clothes.
All know it is He:
the Lord, Whom the Cherubim praise.
Hosanna in the highest! //
Blessed art Thou, O greatly merciful One! Have mercy on us!

O gracious Lord, Who ridest upon the Cherubim,
and art praised by the Seraphim,
now Thou ridest like David on the foal of an ass.
The children sing hymns worthy of God,
while the priests and scribes blaspheme against Thee.
By riding an untamed colt, Thou hast prefigured the salvation of the Gentiles,
those wild beasts, who will be brought from unbelief to faith.
Glory to Thee, O merciful Christ, //

our King and the Lover of man!

Tone 6

The grace of the Holy Spirit

today has assembled us.

Taking up Thy Cross we sing:

“Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!//

Hosanna in the highest!”

Tone 1 Troparion

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion,
Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God.

Like the children with the palms of victory,

we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death:

“Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 4 Troparion

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God,
we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection.

Now we praise Thee and sing:

“Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”

Matins

Kathisma Hymns:

tone 4:

Let us join the children in spirit,
carrying branches in purity of heart.

Let us sing Christ’s praises, crying with a loud voice:

Blessed are You, O Savior!

You have come into the world to save Adam from the ancient curse!

You have become the new Adam, in Your love for man!

Glory to You, O Word of God!
You have accomplished all things for our good!

Glory... now & ever... Amen

Lazarus had been dead four days,
but You raised him from the tomb, O Lord!
You have taught us all to praise You with palms and branches:
Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!

Canon

ODE 1

Choir: The springs of the deep...

refrain: Glory to You, O God, glory to You!

troparion: Out of the mouths of the spotless babes and infants, You have brought forth perfect praise. Destroy the enemy by Your Cross and Passion! Avenge the fall of old Adam! By the tree raise him up to his first splendor, that he may sing to You a song of victory.

refrain: Glory... now & ever... Amen.

troparion: The holy Church offers her praise to You, O Christ, Who dwell in Zion. Israel rejoices in You, her Creator. The mountains, like the stony hearts of the Gentiles, exult before You, singing to You a song of victory.

ODE 3

Choir: The people of Israel drank...

refrain: Glory to You, O God, glory to You!

troparion: Lazarus had been dead four days, but hell trembled at Your command, and released him, for You, O Christ, are the Resurrection and the Life. Upon You the Church is established, crying out: "hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

refrain: Glory... now & ever... Amen.

troparion: Come, O faithful, sing to God worthy hymns in Zion! The Messiah has come to Jerusalem in glory and dominion. Upon Him the Church is established, crying out: “Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!”

Choir – *Hypakoe:* First the multitude praised Christ our God...

ODE 4

Choir: Christ our God is coming and will not tarry...

refrain: Glory to You, O God, glory to You!

troparion: Break forth in mighty gladness, O mountains and all hills! Let the trees of the forest clap their hands for joy! Praise Christ, all you nations! Glorify Him, all you peoples, crying: “Glory, O Lord, to Your power!”

refrain: Glory to You, O God, glory to You!

troparion: The King of glory has come. The Lord of the ages has entered. The hour of His majesty is upon us. His beauty in Zion is beyond compare. Come, O faithful, let us fall down before Him, crying: “Glory, O Lord, to Your power!”

refrain: Glory... now & ever... Amen.

troparion: The Lord comes! He holds the earth in His grasp. He measures the heavens with the span of His hand. He has chosen Zion; in her He is well pleased to dwell, ruling the hearts of all who cry in faith: “Glory, O Lord, to Your power!”

ODE 5

Choir: O herald of good tidings to Zion...

refrain: Glory to You, O God, glory to You!

troparion: God Almighty, enthroned upon the cherubim, has given heed to the lowly. He has come in great glory and power. The whole earth is filled with His praise. Peace be to Israel and salvation to the Gentiles!

refrain: Glory... now & ever... Amen.

troparion: Jerusalem and holy Zion, mountain of our God, lift our eyes round about and see! Your children gather from afar. They worship Him Who reigns in you: Peace be to Israel and salvation to the Gentiles!

ODE 6

Choir: The souls of the righteous sing for joy...

refrain: Glory to You, O God, glory to You!

troparion: O Israel, receive God's Kingdom! Behold, a great light is rising on those who dwell in the shadow of death. Let the peoples be renewed through sprinkling with blood divine!

refrain: Glory... now & ever... Amen.

troparion: Release your ransomed prisoners, O Zion! Lead them up from the waterless pit of ignorance! Let the peoples be renewed through sprinkling with blood divine!

Choir – Kontakion: Sitting on Your throne in Heaven...

Reader – Oikos: You have bound hell, slain death, and raised the world. Therefore the children carry palms and praise You as victor, O Christ! Today, O Immortal Lord, they cry to You: "Hosanna to David's Son! No longer shall little children be slain for Mary's Child. You are crucified for us all, both young and old. Your side is pierced with a spear, defeating the sword drawn against us. We cry aloud in great exultation:

choir: Blessed is He who comes to recall Adam!

ODE 7

Choir: You have saved the children of Abraham...

refrain: Glory to You O God, glory to You!

troparion: the people knelt before You with palms in their hands. They rejoiced with the disciples, crying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed are You, O most praised Lord, the God of our Fathers!"

refrain: Glory to You O God, glory to You!

troparion: The innocent children sang a hymn worthy of You, O King of Israel and King of Angels: “Blessed are You, O Most praised Lord, the God of our Fathers.”

refrain: Glory... now & ever... Amen.

troparion: Bearing palms and branches, the crowd hailed You, O Son of David, crying out: “Blessed is the King of the new age to come! Blessed are you, O most praised Lord, the God of our Fathers!”

ODE 8

Choir: Rejoice, O Jerusalem!...

refrain: Glory to You O God, glory to You!

troparion: Christ your King is here, O Zion. He has come to destroy the senselessness of idolatry, and to restrain the untamed willfulness of the Gentiles, teaching them to sing: “Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord!”

refrain: Glory to You, O God, glory to You!

troparion: Rejoice greatly, O Zion! Your Messiah, your God, will reign forever. He is meek; He brings salvation, as it is written. Our righteous Deliverer comes riding on a colt, destroying the proud arrogance of those who will not cry: “Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord!”

refrain: Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord, now & ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

troparion: The band of lawless extortioners was driven out of the temple. They had made God’s house of prayer into a den of thieves. They rejected the Redeemer, to whom we cry aloud: “Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord!”

choir – refrain: We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

ODE 9

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us...

refrain: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

troparion: Why do you nations rage? Why do you priests and scribes imagine vanities, saying: “Who is this, whom children praise with palms and branches, crying: ‘Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!’”

refrain: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

troparion: This is our God. There is none other like Him. He established every righteous way, bestowing it upon His beloved Israel. After this, He appeared on earth and walked with men. Blessed Is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

refrain: Glory to You, O God, glory to You!

troparion: You rebels! Why have you placed stumbling blocks before us! Your feet hasten to shed the Master’s blood, but He will rise again, saving all those who cry to Him: “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!”

Choir – *Katavasia:* God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us...

PRAISES, tone 4:

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens.

Praise Him in the highest.//

To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, all you angels of His!

Praise Him, all His hosts!//

To You, O God, is due a song!

A great multitude spread their garments on the road, O Lord.

Others cut branches from the trees and carried them.

They cried: Hosanna to the Son of David!//

Blessed is He who comes, and will come again, in the Name of the Lord!

When You were about to enter the Holy City, O Lord,

The crowd greeted You with palms and songs.

They saw the master of all riding upon a colt, as though upon the cherubim!

They cried: Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He who comes, and will come again, in the Name of the Lord!

Come forth, all you nations!

Come forth, you peoples!

Behold, the King of Heaven comes to Jerusalem,

Sitting on a humble colt as though upon a throne!

O unbelieving and adulterous generation;

Come and see the one whom Isaiah foretold

For our sake He has come in the flesh.

He takes the new Zion, chaste and pure as His bride.

He will crush the evil council like a vessel of clay.

See you the young and innocent children gather,

Singing praises as at a marriage feast.

Let us join them in the angel's hymn:

Hosanna in the highest!//

Blessed is He who comes, and will come again, in the Name of the Lord!

Before Your voluntary passion, O Lord,

You foretold the universal resurrection to all:

In Bethany, by Your almighty power,

You raised Lazarus who was dead four days!

You gave sight to the blind, for You are the Giver of Light!

You have entered the Holy City with Your disciples,

Seated on the colt of an ass, fulfilling the Scriptures.

The children of the Hebrews met You with olive branches and palms.

We follow their example, crying to You in thanksgiving://

Blessed is He who comes, and will come again, in the Name of the Lord!

GLORY...NOW AND EVER...Feast, Tone 6:

Six days before the Feast of Passover

Jesus entered Bethany.

His disciples asked Him:

“Where should we prepare for Thee to eat the Passover”

He answered: “When you have entered the city,

A man carrying a jar of water will meet you.

Follow him into the house which he enters.

Tell the master of the house:

“The Teacher says to you://

‘Here I will eat the Passover with my disciples.’”