



# ABOUT THE PROPERs

*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



Sixth Sunday in Lent

**Palm Sunday**

March 28, 2022



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Here is the culmination of our Lenten journey of repentance and renewal. Here is final preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. The journey of Lent has prepared our hearts to ponder anew the Passion of our Lord and his glorious triumph over death and grave. With repentant hearts we join our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, confident in his everlasting rule, hailing him as our Eternal King. At the same time, we are mindful that he is our King because he is the Messiah, the promised Son of David sent as the sacrificial Lamb of God. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

## The Propers

*The Proper*s are those portions of the service that change (or, are "proper" to) each Sunday or season of the church year. The Propers differ from the Ordinary (from the Latin *ordo*, which means "regular order") portions of the liturgy, which do not change (e.g. the Lord's Prayer). The Propers offer the variety to the worship service and emphasize particular worship themes throughout the liturgical calendar.

### **First Lesson** <sup>2</sup> Isaiah 42:1-4

This Servant Song foretells the Messiah's work: he will be God's own servant sent to accomplish God's mission. God will choose him, uphold him and delight in him. God will also put his Spirit on him that he might bring justice to the nations.

### **Second Lesson** <sup>1</sup> Philippians 2:5-11

The homage due a king belongs to the Christ. At the name of Jesus – "human name for God above" (CW76 st.5) – every knee shall bow. For he has come to serve his people, not with armies and war machines, but with the obedient sacrifice of his own life. Therefore he is exalted by saints on earth and hosts of heaven.

### **Gospel of the Day** <sup>1</sup> Luke 19:28-40

Our humble King comes in majesty to do the will of the Father. He comes to bring salvation, righteousness, and peace: peace in heaven and glory in the highest! He came as the fulfillment of scripture, as the answer to mankind's problem, as the Hope for all the true Israel of God. On this day, the king would have his praise, from the stones if necessary. Behold the King had returned to his city to win peace and salvation for all.

### **Psalm of the Day** Psalm 24

The Lord Almighty enters into Zion, and those whose sins have been washed away join together in celebration. We lift up our heads as we see our salvation approaching.

### **Verse of the Day** Luke 19:28

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

## Prayer of the Day

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Hymn of the Day

133 "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" (Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868)

The hymn's themes of victory ("majesty") and tragedy are juxtaposed to illustrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Christ is hailed with "Hosanna" as he rides forth to die (vv1-2). The angels look with sadness at Jesus' sacrifice (v3); the Father eagerly awaits his Son (v4). Jesus bows in meekness to pain, but will ascend to power and reign in glory once again (v5).

## Traditions & Customs

### Palm Sunday

Certain days of Holy Week have been given special significance. The first is Palm Sunday which takes its name from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This sixth Sunday in Lent has been called "Palm Sunday" since the fourth century, when churches in Jerusalem began the custom of blessing palm branches. The blessing and use of palm branches is still observed in many churches today. Some congregations keep the palm branches until the next year's Lenten season where the dried up branches are burned, and the ashes are used to place crosses on the foreheads of parishioners on Ash Wednesday. For many congregations, Palm Sunday is the day of confirmation. Congregations or individuals may renew their confirmation vows through the questions and answers of the confirmation service.

## Church Year Season<sup>3</sup>

### Lent

The season of Lent leads the Church on a forty-day journey of repentance and prayer, of remembrance and renewal of our baptism. God calls to mankind: Return to the Lord! The journey begins with Ash Wednesday's warning of mortality and culminates at the Service of Holy Baptism in the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

The Church's Lenten worship is muted and quiet. For centuries, the Church has omitted her most jubilant songs of praise during this season of repentance (e.g. the "Gloria in Excelsis," and the use of the word "Alleluia") to reflect the somber nature of the season. Note, however, that the Sundays are designated as Sunday in Lent, not Sundays of Lent. The Sundays themselves are not considered part of the forty days, but are islands of refreshment in our Lenten walk.

## Colors & Symbolism

### Lent: Purple or Violet

These colors are a sign of royalty, self-discipline, sorrow and repentance. Purple also reminds us of sacrifice, not only because that colored clothing was very expensive (sacrifice of money), but also because in order to make purple clothing in ancient times, one had to dye the cloth in the blood of snails (sacrifice of life). Thus purple is a fitting color for the penitential season of Lent, during which we focus more intentionally on our sinfulness, and how our King and Savior, Jesus Christ suffered in our place and sacrificed himself on the cross to take away our sins.

## Nain Paraments

### Lent

Superfrontal: The lamb at the center of the parament represents Jesus, the Lamb of God who was sacrificed to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29; 3:16-17). The nimbus (halo) around its head reminds us that Jesus was a perfect sacrifice, even greater than the unblemished lambs required of the Passover meal (Exodus 12:5).

The palm branches remind us of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the Sunday before he died (John 12:13). Palm branches were used in celebration of victory. Jesus entered Jerusalem to conquer sin, death, and the devil. Our crucified and risen Lord assures us in his Word that his victory is ours by faith (1 Corinthians 15:57).

[The significance of the crosses on the far left and right of the superfrontal are explained below]

Lectern & Pulpit antependia: The cross formed by four nails represents Jesus' death by which he was nailed to the cross (Luke 23:33; John 20:25,27). The white sash around the arms of the cross symbolizes Jesus' righteousness and his perfect victory over our enemies through his resurrection (Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 54-57).

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year C". Joel J. Gawrich, Author; Jonathan E. Schroeder, Editor.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year A". Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author and Editor.

<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year B". Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

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