

One: Rejoice with the disciples, that God's anointed One has courageously chosen to enter the city.

All: We know that Jesus will face trouble; we will stand with him.

One: Cheer with the crowd, "Blessed is he who comes in God's name."

All: Blessed indeed! "God's Kingdom is close, Hosanna in the Highest!"

Prayer of Confession:

One: It's the sixth Sunday of Lent, God, your time to help us get ready for Holy Week and Easter. We think of those who turned away from Jesus during his earthly ministry.

All: And we remember that we, too, turn away.

One: Peter was the one Jesus entrusted to "build his church." He was so willing to step out in faith. And he was the one who denied... who chose the way of darkness rather than light.

All: We too deny Jesus – even when we feel so very close to him. We refuse to follow his example. We hold back from service. And in the face of social pressure, we fail to witness to his love for us.

One: We extinguish the sixth candle with the confession that we have allowed others to define us, rather than the light of Christ.

Assurance of Pardon:

One: As the shadows gather, God has good news for each one. "You are loved. You are forgiven." God is good.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism and Reception of Members:

One: Do you believe in one God; Creator, Son and Holy Spirit?

All: I do, by the grace of God.

One: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, will you turn from the forces of evil and work for good?

All: I will, God being my helper.

One: Will you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as Saviour and Lord?

All: I will, God being my helper.

One: Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this congregation to share in the life, work and ministry of Jesus Christ?

All: I will, God being my helper.

Music:

“Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!”

VU #123

Hosanna, loud hosanna
the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang;
to Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
'mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving,
and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,

content that little children
should on his bidding wait.

'Hosanna in the highest!'
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer;
earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence
eternally rejoice!

Children's Time

Sharing the Story: Matthew 26:69-75

Focus on the Word

Music: "Were You There?"

VU #144
vss. 1,3,5

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

