



Week 6 Palm/Passion Sunday Resource From Empty to Overflowing | John 12:12-19, Psalm 22, Psalm 23

Focus Statement: Our cup overflows because Jesus emptied his cup.

Note: This is a creative service that moves in three parts from “Palms” to “Passion” with three readings and three short messages, interspersed with hymns.

Call to Worship:

We are here today to worship the king of kings!

We worship a king who defies expectations.

Our king pours himself out for us and for all.

We come like empty cups, ready to receive his grace.

In his pouring out we find blessings of compassion, mercy, presence.

We find that the good life is not the easy life, it is the life walked with God.

Opening Unison Prayer: Jesus, as we journey with you today from triumph to despair to hope, lead us to radically trust in you, even in the most desperate of places, because you have been there, and you have prevailed. Amen.

PALMS

First Reading: John 12:12-19

First Message: Jesus enters the city knowing that he will sit with his enemies and God’s goodness and mercy will be with him. They bless him with palms and “Hosannas.” The people believe their cup is finally filled, Jesus will enter the city and conquer the Romans. Peace will come upon the land because Jesus is the warrior who will provide all their needs. Like the woman at the well who was trying to fill her cup with water that wouldn’t satisfy, the people come looking for a Savior to meet their needs, and not seeing that the living water needs to be poured out.

Music Suggestions:

UMH #279: Mantos y Palmas (Filled with Excitement)

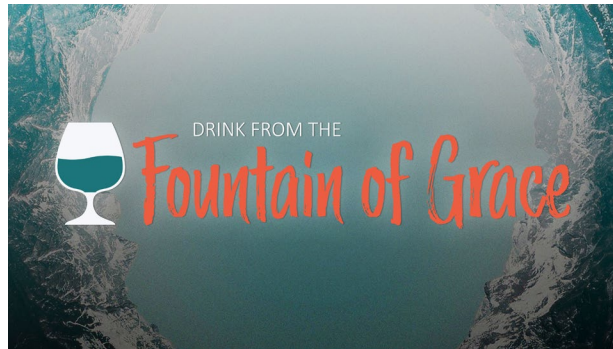
Hosanna (Praise is Rising) CCLI Song #4662491

PASSION

Second Reading: Psalm 22

Second Message: Sheep need pasture and water and rest and movement in order to live. Likewise, the events of Holy Week need to happen to move us to pasture, water, and rest.

Psalm 22, which Jesus prays on the cross, moves right into Psalm 23. In the midst of evil and death, God still guides Jesus and leads him to green pasture and still waters. The lament of Psalm 22 is not a denial of God’s provision, it is an integral part of trusting God. Jesus trusts God enough to come to God in and with his pain and suffering. In Psalm 22:14, Jesus pours himself out like water in Holy Week. He is emptying his cup and giving everything, he has through the events of



Holy Thursday and Good Friday. In the brokenness of Jesus' cup, our cup will overflow on Sunday. Because salvation and deliverance didn't come in the cup (shape, form) they wanted or expected everyone but the women have abandoned Jesus (Ps 22:6).

Music Suggestions:

UMH #393 – Spirit of the Living God
Set A Fire – CCLI #5911299

HOPE

Third Reading: Psalm 23

Third Message: Even while the week will end with Jesus' body placed behind a large stone, we walk through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil. It is this empty cup that will rise on Sunday and conquer death. Our hope is rooted in the suffering of Jesus during Holy Week. Christian hope is both promised salvation and a promise that even though the time "in between" is hard, God is with us as we wait for the final fulfillment of that salvation. Christian hope is grounded in the suffering of Christ and our waiting for the eternal table where our cup truly overflows. In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection we are given the gift to "fear no evil for thou art with me."

Jewish Tradition has that Psalm 23 was written while David was on the run from King Saul. While near death in the dry Judean wilderness, David was miraculously saved by God who nourished him with a taste of the world to come. ... It is recited on days of rest as an expression of trust in God for all our nourishment.¹

Music Suggestions:

UMH #354 – I Surrender All
Build My Life – CCLI #7070345
Construiré Mi Vida, Trad by Evan Craft ([Evan Craft, Living - Construiré Mi Vida \(Build My Life - Español\)](#))

Offering Invitation: The streets of Jerusalem stir with anticipation: hope mingles with fear as the Messiah comes into view. The question hangs in the air: Will Jesus rule our hearts? May our giving be our answer.

Offering Prayer:

Enter the city of our hearts; we lay our gifts before you.
Enter the city of our lives, and save us, Lord Jesus. Amen.

¹ https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/3832324/jewish/Psalm-23-L-rd-ls-My-Shepherd.htm



Additional Components:

Prayer of Confession:

God of Hope,

You stand in solidarity with us even when we betray you.

Forgive us for how our worship is sometimes conditional.

Forgive us for putting expectations on you instead of learning what to expect from you.

When we try to escape the pain of the world, forgive us, and give us eyes to see you in every suffering neighbor.

Help us to lean on you when things are good and when they're not, to lament when we need to lament, to hope in our despair, and to share our hope with the hopeless.

Amen.

Additional Music Suggestions:

UMH #641 – Fill My Cup

Tasha Cobbs – Fill Me Up/Overflow - CCLI Song #5910898 or Jesus Culture – Fill Me Up

Martha Munizzi – Fill Me CCLI Song #5951857

Overflow – CCLI Song #7108501