

# THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

## March 16, 2008

[ ] = Instructions for worship planners and worship leaders: delete from the worship folder  
( ) = Information for the congregation: include in the worship folder and/or PowerPoint.

[Note: **Worship Alive Plus!** is designed to be useable/adaptable in planning contemporary, blended and “fresh traditional” worship.]

[Revised Common Lectionary © 2007 WorshipOutlet.com by Julie Koenemann and Rev. Maxwell Quinn]

### WORSHIP THEME: “His Cradle, His Cross and His Crown: Our Christ”

We live in a world of convenience. We don't like to be inconvenienced. Yet, Jesus who was equal with God the Father left the convenience of heaven humbly Himself all the way from a cradle to a cross. His cradle and His cross changes our cradles and crosses. And His crown becomes our crown!

### + WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

[Worship Planners: A Worship CD and/or the praise team can play in the background 10-15 minutes before the service.]

### INVOCATION AND INTRODUCTION OF TODAY'S THEME

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Blessed is the King, who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People:** Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna to the son of David.

### OPENING PRAYER:

[This prayer is offered as an idea]— O God, we praise You as we remember how Your Son, Jesus Christ, entered Jerusalem and was welcomed with shouts of "Hosanna". He emptied Himself, and took on the form of a servant, was obedient even unto death, and those Hosannas became demands for crucifixion. Fill us with Your Spirit, that our "Hosannas" might be spoken in recognition that Jesus took on our sins, died and rose again, that we might enter into Your presence. Amen.

### TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** We confess our sins and our sinfulness, to God our Father.

(A time of personal reflection and confession)

**Pastor:** Father, here and now, we confess to You and each other that we have fallen short.

**People:** We confess, Father, the weakness of our faith.

Our "hosannas" come from our lips, but not always our hearts.

We are quick to turn on Jesus when things don't go our way.

Our pride prevents us from having the mind of Christ, who emptied Himself and became a servant.

We exercise a discipleship of convenience.

We choose the wide road, and the easy path.

Forgive us, we pray. And give us hearts to receive what You desire to give.

**Pastor:**

Here is the Good News. Jesus emptied Himself and left His position in heaven, and took on our flesh. He, though He was God, was born, suffered and died for us, in loving obedience to His Father's will. Because He emptied Himself, we are elevated. Because He took on our flesh, we are empowered to take on His righteousness. It is a sweet exchange. He died, and we live. He rose again, and we live new lives. He became sin, and we become righteousness. He became a servant, that we might become children. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna to the Son of David.

**RESPONSE**

**I Give You My Heart**

[BOB 104; ATBS 1:202; HMS 15:1222; MSPW2 97]

Reuben Morgan

**Chorus**

**Lord I give You my heart I give You my soul  
I live for You alone Ev'ry breath that I take  
Ev'ry moment I'm awake Lord have Your way in me**

This is my desire To honor You  
Lord with all my heart I worship You  
All I have within me I give You praise  
All that I adore is in You

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**Lord I Lift Your Name on High**

[BOB 151; ATBS 2:53; SD 48:7; WT 4:44; MSPW #2; GB 51; HMS 7:582; CH 107]

Rick Founds

Lord I lift Your name on high  
Lord I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You're in my life  
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth To show the way

From the earth to the cross My debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave From the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift Your name on high  
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**[Traditional Option:]**

**O Sacred Head, Now Wounded** [(Herzlich Tut Mich Verlangen-Rhythmic) ELW 351; LSB 449; H82 169; LW 113; LBW 116; (Passion Chorale) CH 316; H82 168; HFG 284; NCH 226; PH 98; RS 569; UMH 286; WC 221]

**TIME OF GREETING**

**TIME OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

[choose 2 or 3 of the songs listed below or from elsewhere in this service]

**Hosanna**

[[www.musicnotes.com](http://www.musicnotes.com); [www.praisecharts.com](http://www.praisecharts.com); [www.worshipleaderassistant.com](http://www.worshipleaderassistant.com)]

Brenton Brown | Paul Baloché

Praise is rising Eyes are turning to You  
We turn to You Hope is stirring  
Hearts are yearning for You We long for You  
'Cause when we see You We find strength to face the day  
In Your presence All our fears are washed away Washed away

**Chorus**

**Hosanna hosanna You are the God who saves us  
Worthy of all our praises Hosanna hosanna  
Come have Your way among us We welcome You here Lord Jesus**

Hear the sound of Hearts returning to You  
We turn to You In Your kingdom  
Broken lives are made new You make us new  
'Cause when we see You We find strength to face the day  
In Your presence All our fears are washed away Washed away

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**Prepare The Way**

[HMS 20: 1611]

Jared Anderson

**Chorus**

**The Lord strong and mighty The Lord mighty to save  
The earth is full of His glory Creation calls prepare the way  
His love endureth forever His power is without an end  
His strength is victory's treasure Let all who call His name prepare the way**

Prepare the way Make straight the path for Him  
Let the King of Glory enter in Let the King of Glory enter in Who is this King of Glory

Ending

Let the King of Glory enter in Let the King of Glory enter in  
Let the King of Glory enter in Let the King of Glory enter in Who is this King of Glory  
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**Save Us**

[HMS 19:1531; SSA]

Dave Lubben

**Chorus**

**Jesus come bring hope to the hopeless Jesus come bring peace to the restless**  
**Jesus come and set the captives free Lord we've heard of Your great fame**  
**We stand in awe of who You are Come bring glory to Your name**  
**We welcome You with praise**

Hosanna save us Blessed is He who comes  
In the name of the Lord Hosanna save us  
Blessed is He who comes In the name of the Lord

Please come bring hope to the hopeless Please come bring peace to the restless  
Please come and set the captives free Let them sing Your glory

Hosanna hosanna Blessed is He who comes  
In the name of the Lord Hosanna save us  
Blessed is He who comes In the name of the Lord

Ending

We welcome You with praises Jesus We welcome You with praises Jesus  
We welcome You with praises Jesus Set the captives free  
Free

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**[Traditional Options:]**

**All Glory, Laud and Honor** [(Gloria, Laus, Et Honor) H82 155; (St. Theodulph Valet Will Ich) CH 300; ELW 344; H82 154; HFG 249; LSB 42; LBW 108; LW 102; CH 300; NCH 216; PH 88; RS 563; UMH 280; WC 204; (Eulogia) NCH 217]

**Hosanna, Loud Hosanna** [LW 106; HFG 248; LSB 443; CH 297; CW 130; HFG 248; NCH 213; PH 89; WC 203; UMH 278]

**No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet** [LSB 444]

*[Optional: Children's Message and/or Dismissal to Children's Church]*

**+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +**

[It is suggested that the introductions be read out loud as well as the Scripture itself]

## FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a (NIV)

*Jesus, in loving obedience to the Father, offers Himself as a sacrifice for us.*

<sup>4</sup>The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. <sup>5</sup>The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. <sup>6</sup>I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! <sup>9</sup>It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me?

## SECOND LESSON Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

*We have the mind of Christ, who emptied Himself and became obedient unto death.*

<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## MESSAGE “His Cradle, His Cross and His Crown: our Christ!”

*[NOTE: See “Sermon Starters & Seasonings” provided at the end of this service]*

### + WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD +

*[NOTE: Optional location for Confession/Absolution, using materials found earlier in this service]*

## RESPONSE

### At The Foot Of The Cross

[HMS 19:1492]

Kathryn Scott

### Chorus 1

**Now I can trade these ashes into beauty And wear forgiveness like a crown  
Coming to kiss the feet of mercy I lay ev’ry burden down  
At the foot of the cross**

At the foot of the cross Where grace and suffering meet  
You have shown me Your love Through the judgment You received  
And You've won my heart And You've won my heart

At the foot of the cross Where I am made complete  
You have given me life Through the death You bore for me

And You've won my heart And You've won my heart

**Chorus 2**

**Trade these ashes into beauty And wear forgiveness like a crown  
Coming to kiss the feet of Mercy I lay ev'ry burden down  
At the foot of the cross**

Ending 1

And You've won my heart And You've won my heart

Ending 2

I lay ev'ry burden down I lay ev'ry burden down  
At the foot of the cross (Ah ah)  
At the foot of the cross (Ah ah)  
At the foot of the cross (Ah ah)  
At the foot of the cross

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**Once Again (Jesus Christ)**

[BOB 174; MSPW 2:78; SD 6:1; SD 45:13; WT 1:48; WT 4:56; WT 5:46]  
[Text set into order as found in MSPW 2:78]

Matt Redman

Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice;  
You became nothing, poured out to death.  
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life,  
And I'm in that place once again.  
I'm in that place once again.

**CHORUS**

**Once again I look upon the cross where You died.  
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside.  
Once again I thank You, once again I pour out my life.**

Now You are exalted to the highest place,  
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow.  
But, for now, I marvel at this saving grace,  
And I'm full of praise once again.  
I'm full of praise once again.

**CHORUS**

Thank You for the cross. Thank You for the cross.  
Thank You for the cross, my Friend. (3 X)

**CHORUS**

Once again I thank You, once again I pour out my life.

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**[Traditional Option:]**

**Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blest** [LSB 560; LW 356; TLH 390]

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God the Father, created all things, and proclaimed them “good.” Everything was perfect.

Sin slithered into creation, and that which was “good”, was used for evil.

In love, God sent His only Son to rescue creation. Jesus, the eternal light of the Father, left His position in heaven and took on flesh. He emptied Himself, poured Himself out as an offering, and became obedient unto death.

He entered the world, and the world rejected Him. Even those who shouted “Hosanna” would also shout “Crucify Him.”

He died as the payment for sin, and in His death, we are forgiven.

He rose as the sign of the sufficiency of His sacrifice, and we live new lives.

His Spirit of life, enters us and brings us to faith, enabling us to shout “Hosanna”, and to live as those who bear the image of Christ – those who empty themselves, and take on the form of servant.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna to the son of David.

**[NOTE:** The following are contemporary song options for speaking the Apostle’s Creed: *Because We Believe* ATBS 119; SPW 6; INTEGRITY 12 **OR** *This Is What I Believe* GB 249 **OR** The Apostles Creed Integrity 8 **OR** you may choose to do the thematic contemporary creed written specially for this service **OR** use the historic Apostles’ Creed]

### **[OR...]**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

## OFFERINGS

[Anthem by Praise team, choir or soloist:]

### Above All

[BOB 9; ATBS1: 216; HMS 14:1120; HMS 15:1195; WT5: 1; MSPW2: 77; SD 19:6; SD 28: 8]

Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche

Above all powers, above all kings Above all nature and all created things;  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man You were here before the world began.

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones Above all wonders the world has ever known;  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth There's no way to measure what You're worth.

Crucified, laid behind the stone You lived to die, rejected and alone.  
Like a rose trampled on the ground You took the fall, and thought of me, above all.

### Ending

Like a rose trampled on the ground You took the fall, and thought of me, above all.

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### Worthy Is The Lamb

[ATBS 2:20; MSPW 3:136; SD 30:10

Lead lines on [www.praisecharts.com](http://www.praisecharts.com) and [www.iwillworship.com](http://www.iwillworship.com)]

Darlene Zschech

Thank You for the cross Lord Thank You for the price You paid  
Bearing all my sin and shame In love You came  
And gave amazing grace

Thank You for this love Lord Thank You for the nail-pierced hands  
Washed me in Your cleansing flow Now all I know  
Your forgiveness and embrace

### Chorus

**Worthy is the Lamb Seated on the throne**

**Crown You now with many crowns**

**You reign victorious**

**High and lifted up Jesus Son of God**

**The darling of heaven crucified**

**Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb**

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### The Wonderful Cross

[MSPW 2:76; SD 25:11; WT 4:77; WT 5:64; [www.worshiptogether.com](http://www.worshiptogether.com)]

Chris Tomlin / Isaac Watts / J. D. Walt / Jesse Reeves

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Oh the wonderful cross, Oh the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live;  
Oh the wonderful cross, Oh the wonderful cross  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were a tribute far too small  
Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

||: Oh the wonderful cross, Oh the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live;  
Oh the wonderful cross, Oh the wonderful cross  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name. :||

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**[Traditional Options:]**

**A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth** [LSB 438; ELW 340; LW 111; TLH 142; LBW 105]

**Go To Dark Gethsemane** [ELW 347; LSB 436; LW 110; LBW 109; H82 171; HFG 281; NCH 219; PH 97; UMH 290; WC 225]

**My Song Is Love Unknown** [(Rhosymedre) LSB 430; LBW 94; (Love Unknown) ELW 343; H82 458; LW 91; PH 76; RS 572; WOV 661; FWS 2083; LBW 94; NCH 222]

**+ We Contemplate the Passion of Christ +**

**THE READING OF THE PASSION: MATTHEW: 27:11-26**

*Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what*

*shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified." And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified." So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.*

## **SILENCE OR MUSIC**

### **THE READING OF THE PASSION: MATTHEW: 27:27-44**

*Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.*

## **SILENCE OR MUSIC**

### **THE READING OF THE PASSION: MATTHEW: 27:45-54**

*Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"*

## **SILENCE**

## PRAYERS<sup>1</sup>

### [Prayer Topic Starters]

- Thanks for:
  - The passion of Jesus, by which we are saved.
  - The ability to shout “Hosanna”
  - Your compassion and love.
  
- Please give us:
  - Ability to live in surrender, pouring ourselves out.
  - Courage to live out the passion in our lives.
  - Health and strength and comfort and new life for those in need.
  
- Cause us by Your Holy Spirit and Your Word to:
  - Be servant to those around us.
  - Share our faith with those around us
  - Pray for those who govern us.
  - Pray for those in the armed forces.
  - Pray for our enemies.
  
- Local congregational and individual concerns

### The Lord’s Prayer

[Consider having the congregation sing the Lord’s Prayer using the Malotte version using one of the lower keys such as B flat.]

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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[A communion option to insert for churches celebrating the Lord’s Supper on this day]

### + The Lord’s Supper +

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

## THE THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**Pastor:** Hosanna in the highest.

**People** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

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<sup>1</sup> Formal language and “perfectly read” prayers are not recommended for contemporary worship. People appreciate the touching sincerity of informal prayer. “Heartfelt” prayer also teaches/models simple prayer language that anyone can use at home, in the car, the office, etc. These “**Prayer Topics Starters**” are offered to help facilitate spontaneity.

**Pastor:** It is truly right and indeed our delight, at all times and in all places, to give thanks to You, Almighty Father, through Jesus Christ. He emptied Himself, and took on the form of a servant, and was obedient – even unto the cross. By His death and resurrection life with You is offered to us. Therefore, with angels and all the hosts of heaven, with those who have gone before us, and with all of creation, we lift our voices in the great hymn of unending praise.

**Pastor:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us and have given your only-begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us in Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to strengthen our faith, and prepare us to remember our Redeemer and receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood.

## WORDS OF THE NEW COVENANT

### PROCLAMATION OF THE MYSTERY/SHARING OF THE PEACE

**Pastor:** We profess the mystery of the faith:

**People:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is present. Christ will come again.

**Pastor:** Christ was obedient, even unto death.

**People:** Hosanna to the son of David. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** And also with you.

*(Worshippers may turn to one another and share the peace which comes from the Lord with words such as, "God's peace to you.")*

### DISTRIBUTION SONGS – [choose as many you need]

#### Above All

[BOB 9; ATBS1: 216; HMS 14:1120; HMS 15:1195; WT5: 1; MSPW2: 77; SD 19:6; SD 28: 8]

Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche

Above all powers, above all kings,  
Above all nature and all created things;  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,  
You were here before the world began.

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,  
Above all wonders the world has ever known;  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,  
There's no way to measure what You're worth.

Crucified, laid behind the stone;  
You lived to die, rejected and alone.  
Like a rose trampled on the ground,  
You took the fall, and thought of me, above all.

Tag

Like a rose trampled on the ground,  
You took the fall, and thought of me, above all.

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### **Worthy Is The Lamb**

[ATBS 2:20; MSPW 3:136; SD 30:10]

Darlene Zschech

#### Verse 1

Thank You for the cross Lord Thank You for the price You paid  
Bearing all my sin and shame In love You came  
And gave amazing grace

#### Verse 2

Thank You for this love Lord Thank You for the nail-pierced hands  
Washed me in Your cleansing flow Now all I know  
Your forgiveness and embrace

#### Chorus

Worthy is the Lamb Seated on the throne  
Crown You now with many crowns  
You reign victorious  
High and lifted up Jesus Son of God  
The darling of heaven crucified  
Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb

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### **The Wonderful Cross**

[MSPW 2:76; SD 25:11; WT 4:77; WT 5:64]

Chris Tomlin / Isaac Watts / J. D. Walt / Jesse Reeves

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Oh the wonderful cross, Oh the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live;  
Oh the wonderful cross, Oh the wonderful cross  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were a tribute far too small  
Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

||: Oh the wonderful cross, Oh the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live;  
Oh the wonderful cross, Oh the wonderful cross  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name. :||

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## TRADITIONAL COMMUNION HYMN SELECTIONS

**A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth** LSB 438; ELW 340; LW 111; TLH 142; LBW 105

**Go To Dark Gethsemane** ELW 347; LSB 436; LW 110; LBW 109; H82 171; HFG 281; NCH 219; PH 97; UMH 290; WC 225

**My Song Is Love Unknown** (Rhosymedre) LSB 430; LBW 94; (Love Unknown) ELW 343; H82 458; LW 91; PH 76; RS 572; WOV 661; FWS 2083; LBW 94; NCH 222

## THE DISMISSAL

**Pastor:** Christ left heaven and took on flesh – flesh filled with grace and truth. Here in the meals, we have tasted grace and truth. We are empowered to live as Christ lived...

**People:** ...In love, obedience, and service. Amen.

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## BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** May the Father who loves us from all eternity,  
May the Son, Jesus Christ, who was obedient unto death,  
May the Holy Spirit, who brings us to faith and empowers us to live  
in service,  
Bless and keep us now, and forever.

**People:** Hosanna. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

## CLOSING SONG

### Sing to the King

[HMS 20:1618; MSPW 3:141; WT 6:63; SD 40:11]

Billy Foote & Charles Silvester Horne

Sing to the King Who is coming to reign.  
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain.  
Life and salvation His empire shall bring,  
and joy to the nation, when Jesus is King.

#### Chorus:

**Come, let us sing a song,  
a song declaring that we belong to Jesus;  
He is all we need. Lift up a heart of praise.  
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus;  
Sing to the King.**

For His returning we watch and we pray;  
We will be ready the dawn of that day.  
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed,  
'cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.

**Here Is Our King**

[Lead lines on [www.praisecharts.com](http://www.praisecharts.com) and [www.songselect.com](http://www.songselect.com);  
church charts on [www.iwillworship.com](http://www.iwillworship.com) and [www.pwarchive.com](http://www.pwarchive.com)]

David Crowder

**(PRE-CHORUS)**

**The ocean is growing The tide is coming in Here it is**

**Chorus 1**

**Here is our King here is our Love Here is our God who's come  
To bring us back to Him He is the One He is Jesus  
And He is our King He is our Love He is our God who's come  
To bring us back to Him He is the One He is Jesus Jesus**

From wherever spring arrives To heal the ground  
From wherever searching comes The look itself  
A trace of what we're looking for So be quiet now and wait

And what was said to the rose To make it unfold  
Was said to me here in my chest So be quiet now and rest  
So be quiet now and rest

**Chorus 2**

**Here is our King here is our Love Here is our God who's come  
To bring us back to Him He is the One He is Jesus  
And He is our King He is our Love He is our God who's come  
To bring us back to Him He is the One He is Jesus  
He is Jesus**

**Ending 1**

Majesty finally Majesty finally here

**Ending 2**

Majesty finally here

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**[Traditional Option:]**

**Ride On, Ride On in Majesty** [ELW 346; LSB 441; LBW 121; LW105; (St. Drostane) NCH 215; PH 91; (The King's Majesty) H82 156; LBW 121; PH 90; (Truro) WC 205]

# March 2008 Worship Alive Plus Songs & Hymns

Music charts downloadable through:

[www.Praisecharts.com](http://www.Praisecharts.com)

[www.songselect.com](http://www.songselect.com)

[www.worshipkitchen.com](http://www.worshipkitchen.com)

[www.worshiptogether.com](http://www.worshiptogether.com)

[www.Wordmusicnow.com](http://www.Wordmusicnow.com)

[www.musicnotes.com](http://www.musicnotes.com)

Chord charts free downloads available at:

[www.Iwillworship.com](http://www.Iwillworship.com)

[www.pwarchive.com](http://www.pwarchive.com)

Mp3 downloads available through:

[www.Songtouch.com](http://www.Songtouch.com)

[www.Worshiptogether.com](http://www.Worshiptogether.com)

[www.Walmart.com](http://www.Walmart.com)

[www.Iitunes.com](http://www.Iitunes.com)

New Songs to consider:

## **Everything Glorious**

(Recorded on David Crowder's *Remedy* & Passion's *Everything Glorious*)

Lisa Gungor & Michael Gungor, © 2006 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) sixsteps Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) [Lead lines and chord charts on [www.songselect.com](http://www.songselect.com), [www.praisecharts.com](http://www.praisecharts.com), [www.pwarchive.com](http://www.pwarchive.com), and [www.Iwillworship.com](http://www.Iwillworship.com)]

*Keep watch on SongSelect & Praisecharts for the music for this amazing new song:*

**With One Voice** (Recorded on New Life Church)

Chris Ochterbeck, © 2007 New Life Church (Admin. by New Life Church of Arkansas, Inc.)

# SSS – SERMON STARTERS & SEASONINGS

The following ideas are merely intended to help get your own creative juices flowing and prepare your heart for God's Spirit to inspire and speak through you.

## Theme: “His Cradle, His Cross and His Crown: Our Christ”

Philippians 2:5-11

We live in a world of convenience. We don't like to be inconvenienced. Yet, Jesus who was equal with God the Father left the convenience of heaven humbly Himself all the way from a cradle to a cross. His cradle and His cross changes our cradles and crosses. And His crown becomes our crown!

## Theological Reflections and Practical Applications

**2:5** These verses (vv. 5–8) present one of the most significant statements in all of Scripture on the nature of the Incarnation, the fact that God became man. Also, through this wonderful description of Christ, Paul vividly illustrates the principle of humility (vv. 3, 4). **Let this mind be:** All godly action begins with the “renewing of the mind.” Right thinking produces right actions. Our actions are the fruit of our deepest thoughts. **in you:** Thinking and being like Christ are requirements not only for an individual but also for the corporate body of believers. Together we need to think and act like one being, like the person of Jesus Christ.

**2:6 form:** Paul carefully uses the Greek word *morphe* with the present participle to indicate that the nature that Christ continually possesses is “the specific character or essential substance” of God. This word always expresses the nature of the being with which it is associated. That which God was, Jesus is. That status which God possesses, Jesus possessed. Hence, because Jesus' nature is God's nature, Jesus is God. **robbery:** Because Christ was God, He did not look on sharing God's nature as *robbery*, that is, as “a thing to be seized,” as though He did not already possess it, or as “a thing to be retained,” as though He might lose it. **equal:** As used in this verse, this word speaks of equality of existence. Christ was fully God, but He limited Himself in such a way that He could also be completely human. In Christ, God became man.

**2:7 made Himself of no reputation:** This phrase can be translated “He emptied Himself.” Christ did this by taking on the form of a servant, a mere man. In doing this, He did not empty Himself of any part of His essence as God. Instead, He took upon Himself existence as a man. While remaining completely God, He became completely human. **form:** Jesus added to His divine essence (v. 6) a servant's essence, that is, the essential characteristics of a human being seeking to fulfill the will of another. Paul does not say that Christ exchanged the form of God for the form of a servant, involving a loss of deity or the attributes of deity. Rather, in the Incarnation, Christ continued in the very nature of God but added to Himself the nature of a servant. **bondservant:** In this context, the term refers to the lowest status on the social ladder (Heb. 10:5), the exact opposite of the term *Lord*, a title by which all will one day recognize the risen and exalted Christ (v. 11). It is truly amazing, therefore, that the God who created the universe (John 1:3; Col. 1:16) and who rules over all creation (Col. 1:17) would choose to add to His person the nature of a servant. **likeness:** This word does not mean that Christ only appeared to be a man. Rather, the term emphasizes identity. In reality He was a man, possessing all the essential aspects of a human being, although unlike all others He was sinless.

**2:8 appearance:** This is the third word Paul uses to show the Philippians that Jesus Christ who is fully God from all eternity is also fully man. In the previous verses, Paul describes Jesus as possessing the nature of God and taking on the nature of a servant. Jesus came to the earth with the identity of a man. Here the word *appearance* points to the external characteristics of Jesus: He had the bearing, actions, and manners of a man. **He humbled Himself:** Jesus willingly took the role of a servant; no one forced Him to do it. **obedient:** Although He never sinned and did not deserve to die, He chose to die so that the sins of the world could be charged to His account. Subsequently He could credit His righteousness to the account of all who believe in Him (2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 1:4). **even the death of the cross:** Paul describes the depths of Christ's humiliation by reminding his readers that Christ died by the cruelest form of capital punishment, crucifixion. The Romans reserved the agonizing death of crucifixion

for slaves and foreigners, and the Jews viewed death on a cross as a curse from God (Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13).

**2:9** Note the contrast between Jesus' placing Himself in a debased status (v. 8) with God the Father's elevation of Jesus to a **highly exalted** status. On earth Christ was God, but appeared as man; back in heaven. He retained His humanity, but He manifests His prerogatives of deity. God graciously granted to Him the name. On earth Christ was crowned with thorns (Matt. 27:29); back in heaven He is crowned with glory and honor (Rev. 5:12–14). **and given Him the name which is above every name:** Paul is referring to the OT passage speaking of the divine name Yahweh (LORD).

**2:10 every knee:** Although all will one day worship Christ, only those who put their faith in Him in this life will have an everlasting relationship with Him after death (Rev. 20:13–15). **those under the earth:** Paul refers here to those who will already have died at the time of Christ's return, in contrast to the angels in heaven and those who will still be living on earth.

**2:11 confess:** The term Paul uses is a strong, intensive verb, which means "agree with" or "say the same thing." Essentially Paul is saying that everyone will unanimously affirm what God the Father has already stated (Is. 45:23): that Jesus Christ is Lord.<sup>2</sup>

## Quotations

### Humility

Nothing is beneath you if it is in the direction of your life.

*Emerson, The Journal of Life*

Humility is as much the opposite of self-abasement as it is the opposite of self-exaltation.

*Dag Hammarskjold, Markings*

### Self-Indulgence

The more you let yourself go, the less others let you go.

*Neitzsche, Miscellaneous Maxims and Opinions*

### Discipleship

Discipleship is anything that causes what is believed in the heart to have demonstrable consequences in our daily life.

*Eugene Peterson*

### Letting Go the Glory

Out of his wisdom Robert Morrison of China wrote, "The great fault, I think, in our mission is that no one likes to be second." The world has yet to see what could happen if everyone lost the desire to get the glory. Wouldn't it be a marvelous place if nobody cared who got the credit?

*J. Oswald Sanders, Spiritual Leadership*

## Illustrations

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<sup>2</sup>Radmacher, Earl D. ; Allen, Ronald Barclay ; House, H. Wayne: *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary*. Nashville : T. Nelson Publishers, 1999, S. Php 2:5-11

## Humility

Humility is such an elusive virtue. Once you think you have it, you don't, or you wouldn't think you did. You've heard the story of the boy who received the "Most Humble" badge and had it taken away because he wore it?

Something similar happened to me just the other morning. I had retreated to a nearby town to work on this book. The village is a perfect hideaway; it is quaint, quiet, and has great food.

I'd gone to a café for breakfast when I noticed that people were staring at me. As I parked, two fellows turned and looked in my direction. A woman did a double take as I entered, and several patrons looked up as I passed. When I took my seat, the waitress gave me a menu but not before she'd given me a good study.

Why the attention? Couldn't be my fly; I was wearing sweats. After some thought I took the mature posture and assumed they recognized me from my book jackets. *Why, this must be a town of readers.* And, I shrugged to myself, *they know a good author when they see one.* My appreciation for the village only increased.

Giving a smile to the folks at the other tables, I set about to enjoy my meal. When I walked to the cash register, the heads turned again. *I'm sure Steinbeck had the same problem.* The woman who took my money started to say something but then paused. Overwhelmed, I guessed.

It was only when I stopped in the rest room that I saw the real reason for the attention—a ribbon of dried blood on my chin. My patch job on the shaving nick hadn't worked, and I was left with my own turkey wattle.

So much for feeling famous. They probably thought I was an escapee from a Texas prison.

Oh, the things God does to keep us humble. He does it for our own good, you know. Would you set a saddle on the back of your five-year-old? Would God let you be saddled with arrogance? No way.

This is one piece of luggage God hates. He doesn't dislike arrogance. He doesn't disapprove of arrogance. He's not unfavorably disposed toward arrogance. God hates arrogance. What a meal of maggots does for our stomach, human pride does for God's.<sup>3</sup>

## Cross and Crown

It is eternity's most bizarre exchange. Paul explained it like this: "Christ took away the curse the law put on us. He changed places with us and put himself under that curse" (Gal. 3:13).

When he sees sin, a just God must either inflict punishment or assume it. God chose the latter. On the cross "God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself" (2 Cor. 5:19).

I know John says that Jesus was carrying his own cross as he walked up the hill, but he wasn't. He was carrying ours. The only reason he carried the cross was for us thieves and crooks. "Christ had no sin, but God made him become sin so that in Christ we could become right with God" (2 Cor. 5:21). It wasn't his death he died; it was ours. It wasn't his sin he became; it was ours.

A beautiful illustration of this came my way, even as I was writing this chapter. In between the composition of the two paragraphs above, I received a call from a friend named Kenny. He and his family had just returned from Disney World. "I saw a sight I'll never forget," he said. "I want you to know about it."

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<sup>3</sup>Lucado, Max: *Traveling Light : Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear.* Nashville : W Publishing Group., 2001, S. 71

He and his family were inside Cinderella's castle. It was packed with kids and parents. Suddenly all the children rushed to one side. Had it been a boat, the castle would have tipped over. Cinderella had entered.

Cinderella. The pristine princess. Kenny said she was perfectly typecast. A gorgeous young girl with each hair in place, flawless skin, and a beaming smile. She stood waist-deep in a garden of kids, each wanting to touch and be touched.

For some reason Kenny turned and looked toward the other side of the castle. It was now vacant except for a boy maybe seven or eight years old. His age was hard to determine because of the disfigurement of his body. Dwarfed in height, face deformed, he stood watching quietly and wistfully, holding the hand of an older brother.

Don't you know what he wanted? He wanted to be with the children. He longed to be in the middle of the kids reaching for Cinderella, calling her name. But can't you feel his fear, fear of yet another rejection? Fear of being taunted again, mocked again?

Don't you wish Cinderella would go to him? Guess what? She did!

She noticed the little boy. She immediately began walking in his direction. Politely but firmly inching through the crowd of children, she finally broke free. She walked quickly across the floor, knelt at eye level with the stunned little boy, and placed a kiss on his face.

"I thought you would appreciate the story," Kenny told me. I did. It reminded me of the one you and I have been studying. The names are different, but isn't the story almost the same? Rather than a princess of Disney, we've been considering the Prince of Peace. Rather than a boy in a castle, we've looked at a thief on a cross. In both cases a gift was given. In both cases love was shared. In both cases the lovely one performed a gesture beyond words.

But Jesus did more than Cinderella. Oh, so much more.

Cinderella gave only a kiss. When she stood to leave, she took her beauty with her. The boy was still deformed. What if Cinderella had done what Jesus did? What if she'd assumed his state? What if she had somehow given him her beauty and taken on his disfigurement?

That's what Jesus did.

"He took our suffering on him and felt our pain for us.... He was wounded for the wrong we did; he was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds" (Isa. 53:4-5).

Make no mistake:

Jesus gave more than a kiss—he gave his beauty.

He paid more than a visit—he paid for our mistakes.

He took more than a minute—he took away our sin.<sup>4</sup>

### **Form of a Servant**

You know, Lord, how I serve You with great emotional fervor in the limelight.

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<sup>4</sup>Lucado, Max: *A Gentle Thunder : Hearing God Through the Storm*. Dallas, TX : Word Pub., 1995, S. 85

You know how eagerly I speak for you at the women's club.  
You know how I effervesce when I promote a fellowship group.  
You know my genuine enthusiasm at a Bible study.  
But how would I react, I wonder, if you pointed to a basin of water  
And asked me to wash the calloused feet of a bent and wrinkled old woman  
day after day, month after month  
in a room where nobody saw, and nobody knew?

*Ruth Harms Calkin, Tell Me Again, Lord, I Forget*

## **On the Lighter Side ☺**

### **Pride and the Fall**

A young preacher stepped into the pulpit confidently, almost arrogantly. His sermon flopped and he went out of the pulpit humbled and meek. A man told him, "If you had gone up there the way you came down, you would have come down the way you went up!"

*Anthony Craver, Sermoncentral.com*

### **Self-Inflated**

Reaching the end of a job interview, the human resources person asked a young engineer fresh out of MIT what kind of a salary he was looking for. "In the neighborhood of \$140,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

"Well, what would you say to a package of 5-weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical & dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, & a company car leased every 2 years...say, a red Corvette?"

"Wow! Are you kidding?"

"Yeah, but you started it."

*Charles Salmon, sermoncentral.com*

### **A Dose of Humility**

A pastor finally gets an opportunity to speak at a large community association gathering. He feels rather proud that he was asked, so he refuses the check saying that "he felt special enough by being chosen" and that the check should go to a better cause.

Reluctantly, the person giving the check did say that they had a special fund that this money could be used for. When the pastor inquired further about this special fund, the person said, "It's so that we can get a better speaker next year."

*Greg Buchner, Sermoncentral.com*

## Video Resources

### **This Hand [Introduction to Message or Introduction to Second Lesson]**

Our hands commit sin – Jesus' hands were nailed to a cross to forgive those sins. His hands reach for us from the cross, and we are held close. This video is available as a download from [www.sermonspice.com](http://www.sermonspice.com). Simply type in the name of the video in the search bar. The video costs \$20 and runs 2:12. This video can serve as an introduction to the message, or as an introduction to the second lesson (Philippians 2)

### **It's All About Me [Introduction to Second Lesson, Intro. to Message OR Insertion within Message]**

Tongue-in-Cheek. A worship leader extols his own virtues – the opposite of what Jesus did as He emptied Himself and took on the form of a servant. This video is available as a download from [www.sermonspice.com](http://www.sermonspice.com). Simply type in the name of the video in the search bar. The video costs \$20 and runs 1:26. Please preface the video with a reminder that this is a spoof. This video can serve as a lead-in to Philippians 2, as a lead-in to the message, or as an insertion in the message if the point is being made that we have a tendency to exalt ourselves rather than humble ourselves.

## Nu-Parable

Hand out broken, tarnished, damaged things to worshippers as they enter. It doesn't matter what – candles, pencils – anything. The point is that these things are broken, ugly and essentially useless. Have a supply of new items on the altar – new candles, new pencils, new counterpart to whatever broken item was handed out as the worshippers entered. As people come to commune, have them bring their broken items to the front, and have a worship assistant exchange the worshippers broken item for a new one. The worshipper returns to the pew having exchanged his brokenness for the crown of Christ.

*Maxwell Quinn*