

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth**  
**Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Stephen Dunkin**

**Call to Worship** (Zechariah 9:9)

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

**Shout aloud, O Daughter Jerusalem!**

See, your king comes to you,

**righteous and victorious,**

lowly and riding on a donkey,

**on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

**Prayer of Invocation**

O Lord Jesus Christ,

on this day you received the worship

of those who hailed you as their King:

Accept our praise and adoration, our worship and love;

and grant that we, who now confess you with our lips,

may never fail to give you the service of our lives,

for the honor of your holy name,

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, world without end. **Amen.**

**Hymn #214: "All glory, laud and honour" – St. Theodulph**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3a8fTTrAdE>

Chorus All glory, laud, and honor

To thee, Redeemer, King

To whom the lips of children

Made sweet hosannas ring

1. Thou art the King of Israel  
 Thou David's royal Son  
 Who in the Lord's name comest  
 The King and Blessed One

Chorus All glory, laud, and honor

To thee, Redeemer, King

To whom the lips of children

Made sweet hosannas ring

2. The company of angels  
Are praising Thee on high  
And mortals joined with all things  
Created make reply

Chorus All glory, laud, and honor  
To thee, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring

3. The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before Thee went  
Our prayer and praise and anthems  
Before Thee we present

Chorus All glory, laud, and honor  
To thee, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring

4. To Thee, before Thy passion  
They sang their hymns of praise  
To Thee, now high exalted  
Our melody we raise.

Chorus All glory, laud, and honor  
To thee, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring

5. Thou didst accept their praises  
Accept the prayers we bring  
Who in all good delightest  
Thou good and gracious king.

Chorus All glory, laud, and honor  
To thee, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring

### **Invitation to Confession**

Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem  
and then later pronounced "Crucify him,"  
we are fickle people who often deny Christ  
in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Remembering the events of Jesus' last week helps us see ourselves for what we are: sinners in need of a Savior, a Savior—praise God—we have in Christ. In honesty and hope, we confess now our sins to God.

### **Responsive Prayer of Confession**

O King of Glory,  
 we confess that our praise of your majesty has often been faint,  
 our performance as citizens of your kingdom treasonous.  
 For we have surrendered to the enemy  
 by our secret and our known sins.  
 For our treason you died, Lord Jesus.  
 For our restoration, you rose again.  
 Draw us closer to you in this holy week,  
 that our eyes may catch the vision of your tears,  
 and our hearts, the wonder of your grace.  
 By the Holy Spirit's continuing discipline,  
 let us be loyal and loving servants of the King.  
 Praise be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

**For Christ came into the world not to condemn the world,  
 but that the world through him should be saved.**

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children.

**And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,  
 a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

**Hosanna! Amen!**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.**

**For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,**

**Forever and ever. Amen**

### **Responsive Reading: Psalm 31**

Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress;

my eyes grow weak with sorrow,  
my soul and body with grief.

**My life is consumed by anguish  
and my years by groaning;  
my strength fails because of my affliction,  
and my bones grow weak.**

Because of all my enemies,  
I am the utter contempt of my neighbors  
and an object of dread to my closest friends—  
those who see me on the street flee from me.

**I am forgotten as though I were dead;  
I have become like broken pottery.**

For I hear many whispering,  
“Terror on every side!”

They conspire against me  
and plot to take my life.

**But I trust in you, LORD;  
I say, “You are my God.”**

My times are in your hands;  
deliver me from the hands of my enemies,  
from those who pursue me.

**Let your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your unfailing love.**

**Ministry of Music: “Hosanna To The King” – Chris Anderson**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQvgXUWiYfE>

1. Hosanna to the noble King,  
Who rides down Olive’s Mound—  
The blessed One, of David’s line,  
This joyful day is crowned.
2. Hosanna to the humble King,  
Who rides upon a foal.  
Raise psalms and palms to honor Him  
With all your strength and soul.
3. Hosanna to the holy King;  
Sing out with joy and dread;  
Join in the children’s Temple hymn  
Lest stones cry out instead.

4. "Hosanna to the coming King!"  
 Shall rise from ev'ry shore—  
 To Olive's Mound He shall return  
 To reign forever more!

## Scripture Reading:

**Mark 11:1-11**

### *The Triumphal Entry*

**1** Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples **2** and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" **4** And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. **5** And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" **6** And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. **7** And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. **8** And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. **9** And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **10** Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

**11** And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Eternal God,  
 whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty:  
 Quiet within us every voice but your own.  
 Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ,  
 that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
 we may receive grace to show Christ's love  
 in lives given to your service. **Amen.**

## **"Whatever Happened To The Donkey?"**

**Mark 11:1-11**

I remember hearing a story about a man who had driven into town one day and parked on the main street. He then went off to run errands and take care of some business. While he was away another man pulled his car into the park spot behind him but when he did, he hit a patch of ice and slid into the back of the already parked car. He got out and surveyed the damage. A small crowd gathered to watch what was going to happen. The driver of the second car reached into his car and pulled out a pad of paper and proceeded to write a note which he placed under one of the windshield wipers. He then got back into his car and drove away.

Shortly after he left, the first man arrived back to find the rear of his car crumpled. There were still a few people standing around the scene of the accident. One of them pointed to the note under the windshield wiper, which he retrieved. He opened it and read the following. "Everyone standing here watching as I write this note thinks that I am leaving my name and phone number so that you can contact me, but I'm not!" What a surprise that must have been.

Today is Palm Sunday, that day at the end of Lent which marks the triumphal entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem and starts us on our passage through Holy Week. It was a bit of a surprise for all involved. The events of this day are recorded in all four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The accounts in Matthew and Luke are very similar, but our reading today is from Mark, the shortest of the four gospels. It is different in some surprising ways. It is only 16 chapters long. Of those 16 chapters, 5 deal with the crucifixion of Jesus and the events leading up to it (11-15). One chapter focuses on the resurrection of Jesus (16). Some have gone so far as to say that Mark's Gospel is a passion narrative with a lengthy introduction.

There are some distinct differences in Mark's Gospel. For instance, it does not contain the well known quote from Zechariah 9:9,

**5 "Say to the daughter of Zion,  
'Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"** (Matthew 21)

In Mark, there is no mention of a donkey at all, only a colt. Of course, we can accept the assertion of the other gospels that it was a **colt, the foal of a donkey**. There is no mention of palm branches here. It only says that **8 they spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields**. In the hosannas, there is no mention of Jesus as the Son of David as in Matthew's gospel. And only in Mark do we find this verse at the end of the account of The Triumphal Entry:

**11 And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.**

Now don't get me wrong, I am not suggesting that one of the Gospels is right and the others wrong. We have to remember that these are eyewitness accounts, and like the accounts of any witnesses to an event or series of events, they are all going to differ somewhat. If you have four witnesses to an accident and the stories of all four are exactly the same, then you know they are lying. The only way they can be exactly the same is if they have colluded ahead of time and made sure that their testimony matches. Every person views an event from a different perspective. They may agree on the salient points, but differ on the details.

Let's start at the beginning.

**1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it.**

The disciple band is just outside of the city of Jerusalem, near the villages of Bethphage, which by the way means "house of unripe figs", and Bethany which means "the house of Ananiah" or "house of poor or unripe figs". So, I guess if you were looking for good or ripe figs, just the names of these two towns would send you looking elsewhere. Bethphage was closer to Jerusalem and on their journey from Jericho to Jerusalem, Jesus and the disciples would have reached Bethany first. I



haven't got the faintest clue which village they were outside, but if I had to take a guess, I would probably pick Bethphage. I don't think which village it was is really important, but Jesus chooses this occasion to send two of his disciples on a very special mission. Mark gives 6 verses to this special mission, so it is clear that it is out of the ordinary and important.

The two disciples were to enter the village just ahead and as soon as they entered the village, they would find a colt tied up.

This was not just any colt but a colt that had never been ridden. So, we have a special colt for a special personage. This was a "holy" colt. The word "holy" means

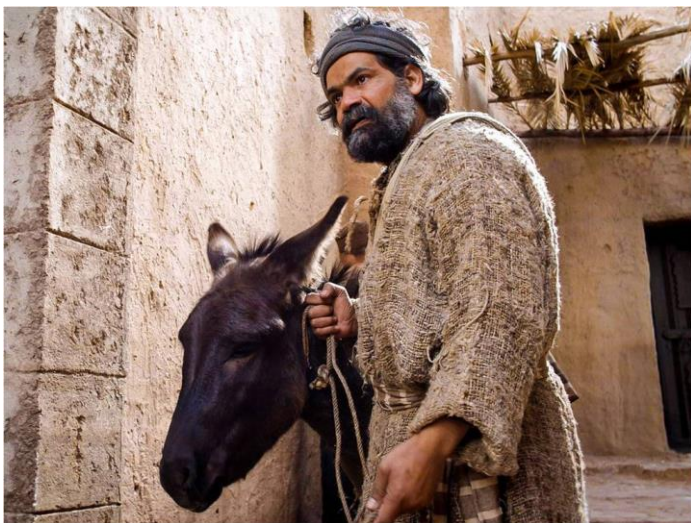
“set apart”. In what way was this colt holy or set apart? It is a colt **on which no one has ever sat**. Just as Jesus, after his death, would be laid in a tomb **where no one had ever yet been laid**, (Luke 23:53) so he would enter Jerusalem riding a colt on which no one had even sat, let alone ridden. The disciples were to untie this holy colt and bring it to Jesus.

Now what are the chances that immediately upon entering this town they would come across a young colt tied up that had never been ridden? When my daughter Jessica was in senior kindergarten in a country school, she asked me if she could go to a friend Kim Willows birthday party after school. I said “Yes”, but because we lived in the country and I had no idea of where

Kim Willows lived, I asked Jessica how I would find Kim’s house. She said, “Daddy, you know that road by my school? You drive down that road unto you see a dog with three legs. That is Kim Willows house.”

Now, I thought I knew the road Jessica meant, but I didn’t have a lot of faith in the rest of her instructions. On the appointed day, I turned down the road by the school. I had never been down the road before. So, I drove, and I drove and I drove. I was just about to give up and try something else,

when suddenly there in front of a house stood a dog with three legs! I had arrived at Kim Willows house!!



However, there is more to the instructions Jesus gives the two disciples. **3** “**If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’**” In other words, they can expect to be challenged while undertaking this audacious mission. I mean, when was the last time you just tried to walk off with a donkey colt that belonged to someone you had never met? Do you really think that telling someone, **the Lord has need of it** is going to give you the right to walk off with this colt? **4** **And they went away and**



**found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. [5](#) And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” [6](#) And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go.**

I spent a couple of days wracking my brain trying to remember a time when I went up to a complete stranger and asked to borrow something and I couldn't come up with anything. But I did come across this remembrance by The Rev. Philip McLarety, a retired Presbyterian minister in the USA. Phil and his brother Tony drove 25 miles from Hope to Arkadelphia, Kansas to get some florescent lights out of an old church for their father's workshop.

When they got there, they discovered that the ceilings were 20 feet high – much higher than the ladder they had brought with them. They didn't want to drive the 25 miles back to Hope to get the proper sized ladder, so they started driving around Arkadelphia looking for a ladder to borrow. Sure enough they



found a ladder propped up against a chain link fence. It was just what they needed.

They stopped and knocked on the door. A woman came to the door, and they told her what they were up to and asked if they could borrow the ladder. They were just two college kids who'd shown up out of nowhere. They promised they'd bring it back as soon as they got the light fixtures down. She looked them over and said, “Sure, just be sure and put it back where you found it.”

They thanked her and took the ladder. By mid-afternoon, they had a whole truckload of fluorescent light fixtures to take back to Hope. They strapped the ladder on top of the truck and put it back where they found it up against the chain link fence. They knocked at the door and thanked the lady for her kindness and drove home.

Phil said: “On the way back, the oddity of it all sank in: How amazing – to think that someone would just take us at our word and loan us a ladder out of the blue. We couldn't help but think what her husband might have said if he'd come home early and seen that the ladder was missing: “You did what? Did you get their names? Did they leave a deposit? Woman, what were you thinking? Have you lost your ever-loving mind?”

How amazing that these two disciples, who were complete strangers, would be able to walk into this little town where



everybody knew everyone else, and untie this colt. When challenged, they said: **The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.** With no further questions, they were allowed to take the colt. What would the owner say to the men who had been standing around when he got back? “You did what? You just let them go? Have you lost your ever-loving minds? That was not your donkey colt to loan out! I don’t care who had need of it!!”

I am pretty sure that you know the rest of this very familiar story – of how they brought this colt to where Jesus was, and laid their cloaks on the back of the donkey forming a makeshift saddle for Jesus to sit on. You may remember how, **many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.** You may remember that **9** those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **10** Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”



But do you remember this: **11** And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. I think we need to understand that it was not the people of Jerusalem who went out to welcome Jesus, but a band of pilgrims going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, along with his disciples, who sang his praises. Very shortly the people of Jerusalem, stirred up by the chief priests and the official leaders of Judaism, would call for Christ’s death. However, once within the city of Jerusalem, the crowd of pilgrims quickly dispersed and Jesus headed for the Temple. The text tells us that it was late in the day. Well, of course it was late in the

day. Jesus and his disciples have travelled from Jericho which is 18 to 20 miles from Jerusalem. Add to that getting the colt and the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and it would have to be late in the day. Why would Jesus head for the temple? By late in the day, the crowds would have gone and there were probably only a few priests and a couple of hangers-on around the temple precincts. The business of the temple would have been over for the day but all the tables of those that carried on business there would have remained. So again, we ask the question, “Why would Jesus go to the temple?” Because the text tells us, **“And when he had looked around at everything ...”** Jesus went to the temple just to look around.

I believe that Jesus was casing the “joint”. He examined the institution to see whether it was fulfilling its divinely appointed mission. According to the chronology in



Mark’s gospel, the next day Jesus will come and cleanse the temple. He will **drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple. He will overturn the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. [16](#)**



**And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. And he would utter these famous words; [17](#) ... “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of**

**robbers.”** Some have this mistaken notion that Christians should not plan – that we should leave everything up to the Lord. I could be wrong but I believe that on that evening, as Jesus looked around at everything in the temple area, he was preparing himself for what he would have to do the next day. He examined the institution of the temple. He knew what went on there. As he surveyed everything, he was preparing to act.

Does this have a message for us this morning? As we stand and survey, not this building but the denomination of which we are a part, what do we see? Do we see a

denomination fulfilling the God given mission on which our forefathers established it? Do we see that it remains true to the underlying doctrine and practices under which it was established? Does it remain true to the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and those basic tenets which form the bedrock on which Christianity is built?

In 1 Chronicles 12 we come across a reference to the leadership of the tribe of Issachar. Issachar was one of the 12 sons of Jacob and as a result formed one of the tribes of Israel. It says of them that they were [32](#) ... **men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do.** I pray that the leadership of this congregation, men and women alike, would be numbered among those who understand the times in which we live and know what we as a congregation should do. May they provide God driven leadership in these days of apostasy and drift when the church seems to be moved first this way and then that, driven by every wind of doctrine and the ever changing opinions to which our society is gravitating.

I have one final question this morning. It may seem like a trivial one but it is one that



I have wondered about over the years. Whatever happened to the donkey? Now I know that we have referred to it as a colt this morning, because that is the word Mark uses. So, I am not asking, “Whatever happened to the donkey in that sense?” I accept that it was **a colt, the foal of a donkey.** No, once the pilgrims dispersed and the triumphal entry of Jesus was over, whatever happened to that young donkey colt? There is no mention of what the disciples did with the donkey. Well, I discovered what happened to the donkey colt in

verse 3. Remember the instructions Jesus gave to the two disciples? [3](#) **“If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’”** Jesus made a promise to send the colt back immediately. So, whether he sent one of the disciples to lead the colt back to Bethphage immediately after the procession ended, or whether he waited and took the colt back when they returned to Bethany after surveying the temple that evening we are not told. But of this we can be certain. Jesus had the colt taken back to where it was found. How do I know? Because Jesus never breaks a promise that he makes. You can take that one to the bank!

**Hymn:** "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest", Carl Tuttle  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jw4IIEEjC00>

1. Hosanna hosanna  
 Hosanna in the highest  
 Hosanna hosanna  
 Hosanna in the highest

**Chorus**

Lord we lift up Your name  
 With hearts full of praise  
 Be exalted oh Lord my God  
 Hosanna in the highest

2. Glory glory  
 Glory to the King of kings  
 Glory glory  
 Glory to the King of kings

**Chorus**

Lord we lift up Your name  
 With hearts full of praise  
 Be exalted oh Lord my God  
 Glory to the King of kings

**Offering**

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) **We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer.** This note from our treasurer.

**E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. [standrewspert offering@gmail.com](mailto:standrewspert offering@gmail.com) Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.**

**Responsive Invitation to the Offering**

Give to the Lord the glory due his name;  
 bring an offering and come before him.

**We will sacrifice a thank offering to God  
 and call on the name of the Lord.**

**We will fulfill our vows to the Lord,  
 in the presence of all God's people.**

Let each of us use whatever gift we have received,  
faithfully sharing God's grace in many forms.

**Freely we have received; freely we will give.**

### **Offertory Prayer**

O Lord our God, the author and giver of all good things,  
we thank you for all your mercies,  
and for your loving care over all your creatures.

We bless you for the gift of life, for your protection round about us,  
for your guiding hand upon us,  
and for the tokens of your love within us.

In all these things, O heavenly God,  
make us wise for a right use of your benefits,  
that we may render an acceptable thanksgiving unto you  
all the days of our lives,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

God, whose gracious love for us embraced that long and lonely journey to the cross,  
gather us close to you in these days when again we make that journey in meditation  
and recollection.

Help us to contemplate again the way taken by our Savior: the false charges  
against him, the fear and flight of the disciples, the kiss of betrayal, the crown of  
thorns, the purple robe—and in such contemplation give us courage to face those  
times in our own lives when he received the same at our hands. Yet help us also  
remember that you have gone before us, so we look to you for compassion and  
forgiveness, knowing you are able to save.

When we are weak, make us strong; when hurt and resentful, make us forgiving;  
when defeated and discouraged, make us hopeful. Keep us from asking for mercy  
without giving it ourselves, from praying for your kingdom but never working for it.  
In this week, deepen our faith by your matchless grace. Deepen the measure of our  
gratitude and Christian obedience. Move us, who have so much, to share with others  
who have so little. Uphold us when we summon our courage to speak out for the  
alien and stranger within our gates and for those long denied dignity and freedom.  
Guard and guide us through these days of meditation and remembrance.

Father, we raise up before you those who are suffering and going through difficult  
times. We think of all whose lives have been touched by the ravages of COVID-19.

For those who have contracted the virus, we pray for a speedy and complete recovery. For all those who have lost jobs and experienced life altering results from the pandemic, we pray for your encouragement and guidance. For those who are suffering from worsened mental health issues as a result of the stress of these times we pray that they would experience the peace of Christ. For those whose families are encountering abnormal pressures that make it difficult for them to cope, we pray that they would experience holding them up the undergirding arms of our God. For those marriages that have experienced renewal and a deeper sense of your harmony we praise you. For those marriages that were weak before and have foundered on the shoals of these unprecedented times, we pray that Christ would reveal himself as the one who is able to bind up the brokenhearted and provide hope for the future.

For those awaiting surgery that has been postponed due to the pressures on the healthcare system, may they find rest and peace in knowing that their lives are in the hands of Jesus who has a plan and purpose for them. For those families confronting the certainty of the death of a loved one, we pray that in their brokenness they will experience Jesus comforting them as they mourn the coming loss of one that they love. For all who are having trouble facing the uncertainty of these times, reveal yourself as the God who promises to be with us, even to the end of the age. For those with mysterious and unfathomable illnesses, give the doctors and medical personnel the wisdom and discernment to follow God's path to their healing.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, guard and guide us through all our days until we come at last to that day when all our days and journeys will be gathered into your eternity, and we shall be with you forever. Glory be to you, O God. **Amen.**

**Hymn:** "Lord I Lift Your Name On High"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6l6orjM3NI>

Verse

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

Chorus

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

**Benediction**

Go now and follow Christ in obedience.  
Have the same mind as was in Christ Jesus;  
Keep your ears open to God's teaching;  
Be humble, even in the face of hostility  
and do not turn back.

And may God help you and keep you from disgrace;  
May Christ Jesus lead you through the gates of justice;  
And may the Holy Spirit keep you in God's steadfast love  
and fill your mouths with praise to the glory of God.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.