

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

Look, your king



is coming to you,
humble, and mounted
on a donkey ...

Matthew 21:5

Passion/Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023



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◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

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Passion/Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023

REPENT AND BELIEVE

We welcome all who gather here this morning as we walk with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross. . . A special welcome to all guests and visitors. God so loved the world, that He sent Jesus to bear the burden of our sin on the cross, so that we could receive forgiveness, salvation, and life everlasting.

CHRIST DIED FOR YOU!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

*OPENING SONG

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

26

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Refrain Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: Refrain

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.

His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: Refrain

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING AND SHARING OF THE PEACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵**“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”**

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

**“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking,
“Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds were saying,
“This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***CONFESSION**

Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice, not only with outward signs such as palm branches or the occasional “Hosanna”, but with lives truly turned towards you.

It seems such a distance from this present day Palm Sunday in America to that day when you entered Jerusalem with the shouts of the crowd ringing in your ears.

Welcomed as a king, yet riding on a lowly donkey.

Greeted with cheers and acclamations which were so soon to turn to jeers and condemnation.

From this side of the resurrection, we confidently believe that we could never have been part of the jeering crowd

But would we, if we had been there?

(silent reflection)

Lord Jesus Christ, when our words and actions reflect a reluctance to confess you publicly as Lord of our lives:

Forgive us.

When we fear that humbling ourselves, would be seen by others as weakness, or some kind of defect in our character:

Forgive us.

When we have betrayed your love for us through our lack of love for you, for others, and for ourselves :

Forgive us.

When we find ourselves glossing over the events of your passion and death because we look forward to Easter as a time to enjoy holidays and have fun.

Forgive us.

Lord Jesus Christ, fix your mind in us; and remake us in your likeness; empty us of all that hinders us from following you to where pain and suffering, exploitation and injustice exist.

Gracious and loving God, empower us with the Holy Spirit so that our lives continually glorify you and our tongues forever confess Jesus as Lord. Amen

***EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

Hear the good news: “Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...and became obedient to the point of death --even death on a cross.” Through his obedience we are therefore freed from whatever sin enslaves us.

Thanks be to God!

PROCESSIONAL LITANY WITH PALMS

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

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

THANKSGIVING *(Those in the congregation raise their branches.)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path.

We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAISING CHRIST WITH PALMS

Let us go forth in peace,

in the name of the Lord.

PROCESSIONAL SONG

“All Glory, Laud, And Honor”

108

(For those who are able, we will create the effect of the processional by exiting our pews towards the center aisle, moving toward the altar, and returning to our seats via the side aisle. Those who have palms, please lay them in the center aisle as you process forward.)

*Refrain All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. Refrain*

*The company of angels is praising you on high;
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. Refrain*

*The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went.
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. Refrain*

*To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. Refrain*

*Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. Refrain*

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

ROYAL LITANY & GREETING

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Inga Nelson

*PASSION GOSPEL READING

Matthew 27:27-54

In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

“**Hail, King of the Jews!**”

³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read,

“**This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.**”

³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by derided him,
shaking their heads ⁴⁰and 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.”

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

⁴²**“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”**

⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

“This man is calling for Elijah.” ⁴⁸

⁴⁹At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁵⁰But the others said,

“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

⁵¹Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵²At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵³The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵⁴After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁵Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

“Truly this man was God’s Son!”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

SONG OF THE DAY

“Were You There”

vs. 1-3 # 92

*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 they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

Text: African American spiritual

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
...Merciful God, receive our prayer.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY SONG**

"Create in Me..."

ELW # 186

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Walk with Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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Parades and Long Walks

The stories we hear for Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday are marked by a series of parades. The crowd shouts “Hosanna” as Jesus processes into Jerusalem. After his arrest, he is paraded to the home of Caiaphas to be confronted by the scribes and elders. They bind him and parade him to Pilate. The soldiers lead him to the governor’s headquarters before he is paraded to Golgotha to be crucified.

These were not celebratory parades. For Jesus, each of these journeys was another step on his long walk toward death. We may not know what it is to be paraded about before crowds of people as Jesus was, but we can understand the long walk toward death.

Perhaps you have taken the long walk from a hospital parking lot to the information desk, from the desk around the corner to the visitors’ elevators, and from the elevator through the maze of hallways to the bedside of a loved one to sit vigil as they breathe their last. Maybe you have made the long walk between cubicles to your boss’s office during a time of layoffs, knowing what news is coming. The walk from a classroom to the principal’s office is long and scary, for both the student and the parent who was called in to school from work.

Life has plenty of long and painful walks we would just as soon avoid. Jesus’ prayer at Gethsemane tells us he did not want to take his walk either. And yet he did take that walk. In so doing, he joins us in all of our long and weary wanderings that end in the things of death. Jesus is with us in our deepest pain. But the story does not end there. The journey continues as the women walk to the empty tomb, as Jesus walks with disciples to Emmaus, and as he continues to walk us to places of new life.