

PALM SUNDAY

Humble and Obedient. . . unto Death March 31 & April 1, 2012

AS WE GATHER

Jesus' life of perfect obedience leads Him finally to the gates of Jerusalem. He must now fulfill the prophecies regarding the coming King of Israel. He does that in memorable fashion, turning the people's expectations upside down by an entrance marked by humility and solemnity. In this most holy of weeks, our Lord calls on each of us, not to cheer from the sidelines, but rather to join with Him in His walk to the cross and the empty tomb. May His Spirit bless you this week as you take that walk.

WELCOME

+ PREPARATION +

Please rise & face the entrance to the sanctuary

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

ENTRANCE PSALM *Psalm 118:19-29*

Pastor: Open for me the gates of righteousness,

People: **that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.**

Pastor: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

People: **I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**

Pastor: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

People: **This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

People: **Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!

People: **We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

Pastor: The LORD is God and He has made His light to shine upon us.

People: **Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar.**

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL John 12:12-19 (*Jesus enters Jerusalem humbly, on a donkey.*)

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming,

seated on a donkey's colt." At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him. Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 442 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

*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*

Women & Girls:

The company of angels is praising You on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

Men & Boys:

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*

As You received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, our good and gracious King. *Refrain*
(Be seated)

10:30 BAPTISM of Giancarlo Eliezer Colon page 268
*In consideration of others, please do not text/twitter during the worship service in the sanctuary.
Please refrain from taking photographs during the worship service.*

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Zechariah 9:9-12 (*Rejoice . . . your King comes to you.*) Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, 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. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

5:00 ANTHEM

"Saw Ye My Savior"

St. Paul's Choir

10:30 ANTHEM

"Hosanna, Amen!"

3rd, 4th & 5th Grades

EPISTLE Philippians 2:5-11 (*Jesus' humility is a model for all.*)

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SERMON HYMN

"Rejoice, O Zion's Daughter"

sung to tune: #443

Rejoice, O Zion's daughter, and greet your promised king.
Spread branches in His pathway and loud Hosannas sing!
He comes astride a donkey in deep humility
To claim God's coming kingdom of truth and equity.

O Christ, though king they hailed You, they sent You out to die,
for soon the songs of praises were drowned by "Crucify!"
They stripped away Your garments. They made a cross Your throne,
and there You died in darkness, abandoned and alone.

But still You come among us In cities built with pride.
You walk the streets of sorrow Where hate and greed divide.
Redeem us from our madness, The clash of class and race.
Establish soon Your kingdom Of justice, truth, and grace.

We shout again, "Hosanna!" we hail You as our king!
Christ, stir our wills to action to match the praise we sing.
Send us where Truth is threatened, where justice is denied,
and move our hearts to offer the Love for which You died.

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SERMON

"What does Palm Sunday Mean to You?"

John 12:12-19

(Please rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the back cover of hymnal*)

(Please be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Please rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Dear Lord we pray for Pastor Bender and his family as they prepare to move to Wisconsin.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for everyone according to their needs. Holy Lord, all glory and praise are offered to you, for you are our Redeemer and King, our Savior and Friend. We adore you and exalt your holy name.

People: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

Pastor: Reign over us, not according to our human devising and perceptions, but according to your good and gracious will. Shape our attitude to be like yours living a life of humility and obedience.

People: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

Pastor: Lord Jesus, throughout your earthly ministry you brought comfort and healing to many. So bring the ministry of healing into our midst according to your will. Grant healing, comfort, and faith to those who are sick, especially Vern, Bea, Jerry, Gretchen, Harold, Elfrieda, Lois, Joe and Samuel hear us as we pray for them.

People: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

Pastor: Lord of life, your death on Calvary's cross means life for us. Today we pray the comfort of assurance of the resurrection to new life be with the families of all who mourn and remember loved ones including Nancy; grant them comfort, hope, and assurance.

People: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

Pastor: Lord, during this Holy Week, strengthen our faith and trust in you. As we move from the triumph of Palm Sunday to the institution of your Supper, to the agony of Good Friday, to the glories of Easter, be with us and send your Spirit that our meditation of your holy Passion may move us to greater love for you and for others.

People: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

Pastor: King of heaven, we praise you for abundant blessings only you can give. We join in celebration with Tina, Jordan, Rebecca and Giancarlo Eliezer.

People: Hosanna, Lord Jesus. Come and save us!

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

5:00 & 8:00 THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: "Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning . . ." declares the Lord.

People: For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:12-13, adapted O God, in your mercy, wash away our sins. Cleanse us from the stain and guilt of our sins, those we know and those of which we are unaware. In our thinking, our speaking, and our doing, we have exalted ourselves. We lack true humility. We deserve your wrath and punishment. For the sake of Jesus Christ, turn your eyes from our iniquity and cover our guilt. Open for us the gates of righteousness. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. By the blood of God's covenant with us, we have been freed from all our sin. The Lord has made His light shine upon us!

People: Let every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI *(Sung to tune #566 "By Grace I'm Saved")*

O Lamb of God the pure and holy, Have mercy on my soul this day.

O Lamb of God the pure and holy, Grant me forgiveness for my sin.

Let me receive Your gracious gift, and take from me my sin and guilt.

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(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN # 420 "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

HYMN # 550 "Lamb of God"

HYMN # 527 "O Savior, Precious Savior"

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever. *Psalm 118:1*

Pastor: We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, for in Him you fulfilled your covenant of salvation for us. Send us now, we pray, to invite others to sing their "hosannas" and to follow Him, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN # 441 "Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty"

Preacher

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Lectors

Jim Laux, Grant Gundersen, Jim Adams

Acolytes

Kelly Sarff, Jacob Sentkowski, Sara Schultz

Organist

Roger Gottschalk

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller

Choir Director

Nancy Hoelke

3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Teachers

Jane Jahnke & Patricia Graf