

PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Bittersweet Sunday
March 19 & 20, 2016

AS WE GATHER

Bittersweet. If something is literally bittersweet, it tastes both bitter and sweet at the same time—like a piece of dark chocolate. Different events can be bittersweet too—circumstances that are both painful and pleasant at the same time. Palm Sunday is bittersweet. As we picture Jesus riding into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday, we don't know whether to cry or laugh. Does Jesus enter the city in lowliness or pomp? Is He coming to bow His head to die or to reign in power? The answer is bittersweet: yes. Jesus comes in both of these ways and for both of these reasons. As we enter Holy Week, however, we remember that the bitterness of Palm Sunday's humility, the bitterness of Maundy Thursday's betrayal, and the bitterness of Good Friday's death will undoubtedly give way to the sweetness of Easter Sunday's resurrection and life!

WELCOME

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." Psalm 51:17

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

(Rise)

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL *John 12:12–19*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor: The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out,

People: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

Pastor: And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

People: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Pastor: His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

PROCESSIONAL #443 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Hosanna, loud hosanna, The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple The lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed the, Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving And chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven Rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children Should on His bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heav'n our King.
Oh, may we ever praise Him With heart and life an voice
And in His blissful presence Eternally rejoice!

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,

People: that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

People: The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 118:25, 28–29*

Pastor: Save us, we pray, O Lord!

People: O Lord, we pray, give us success!

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: "You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!" 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.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God,

People: you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death on the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Be seated)

10:30 BAPTISM of Kayden Zachary Lynch

Please refrain from taking photos during the worship service.

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☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 32:36–39* (The Lord will vindicate His people.) The LORD will judge his people and have compassion on his servants when he sees their strength is gone and no one is left, slave or free. He will say: "Now where are their gods, the rock they took refuge in, the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise up to help you! Let them give you shelter! "See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand.

EPISTLE *Philippians 2:5–11* ("He became obedient to death.")

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became 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 confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

5:00 CHOIR ANTHEM

"Lenten Sanctus"

(Due to the length of the Gospel, please remain seated)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 23:1-56*

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king." So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here." On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends--before this they had been enemies. Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting

the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him. " With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!"

(Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder. Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him! For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him." But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will. As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then " they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had

gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON 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**

The company of angels Is praising You on high,
And we with all creation 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**

As You received their praises, Accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, Our good and gracious King. **Refrain**

SERMON "Having the Mind of Christ" Philippians 2:5-11

(Rise)

5:00 & 8:00 NICENE CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERING 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Father of all, we pray for the members of our congregation, that as Christ humbled Himself and took on the form of a servant, so we would have the same mind as our Lord Jesus and receive grace in the hour of temptation.

People: We pray also for the holy Christian Church, that in the hour of trial none would deny the Lord, take up arms or flee, but find solace and joy in the cross of Jesus.

Pastor: Living Lord, we rejoice in the extension of your kingdom as Kayden Zachary Lynch is baptized into Christ this weekend.

People: Bless his parents to raise him in the faith and be good examples of Christian life. Bless us all to grow with him in trusting and following Christ.

Pastor: Lord of the church, we pray for pastors and missionaries all around the world, especially our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry.

People: Make them bold by your Spirit, that they may confidently confess the faith and faithfully proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Lord of the nations, we pray for all kings, governors and authorities in this world, asking that they would bring justice and liberty to this and every place, that we may lead quiet and peaceful lives.

People: We pray also for the men and women of our armed services. Guide them, protect them, and bless them to serve our nation with honor and integrity.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, we pray for all who are sick, lonely, or troubled in mind or body, especially Doris, Jean, Barb, Jan, Jean, Ruth, Mae, Jeannine, Rosalie, Charlene, Bob, Marion, Richard, Marion, Debra, Helen, Leonard, LuEva, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Jack, Shirley, Gretchen, Lois, Sarah, and all those whom we name in our hearts.

People: Grant them healing according to your will. Grant them hope and peace through faith in Christ.

Pastor: Author of the family, we pray for families to grow together in faith and to live in love and peace. Bless fathers and mothers to be diligent to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of our Lord Jesus.

People: Bless our Mom to Mom group as well as our Elizabeth ministry, that women may be supported, comforted, and encouraged in their calling as mothers.

Pastor: Father in heaven, we rejoice in your good gifts. We join with the Murray family as they celebrate Ryan's 15th birthday. We praise you for all the blessings you bestow on us day by day.

People: We also grieve with those who miss loved ones. Bless Sharon as she remembers Renee and Richard, as well as Eleanor as she remembers Walter. Bless their memories of loved ones and comfort them by your Spirit.

Pastor: Lord of love, we pray for all who receive the New Testament in Christ's blood this day, that His blood would be on them and on their children not for wrath but in mercy, and for the forgiveness of all our sins.

People: Grant us to come with contrite and repentant hearts, that we may be strengthened to live as God's people and be filled with great joy on the Day of Resurrection.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, you emptied yourself and took on our nature, that you might present us to your Father as a holy people. Grant us this Holy Week to follow you in your Passion.

People: Where we stumble, lift us up; when we are afraid, give us your joy. Be with us in the hour of death, and ultimately bring us through the grave to share in your resurrection.

Pastor: All for whom we pray and whatever else you know that we need, we lift before your throne of grace, trusting in your mercy and the promise of answered prayers; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(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 #512 “At the Name of Jesus”

At the name of Jesus Ev’ry knee shall bow,
Ev’ry tongue confess Him King of glory now.
’Tis the Father’s pleasure We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word.

At His voice creation Sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces, All the hosts of light,
Thrones and bright dominions, Stars upon their way,
All the heav’nly orders In their great array.

Humbled for a season, To receive a name
From the lips of sinners Unto whom He came,
Faithfully He bore it Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious When from death He passed;

Bore it up triumphant With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures To the central height,
To the throne of God-head, To the Father’s breast,
Filled it with the glory Of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone Him; There let Him subdue
All that is not holy, All that is not true:
Crown Him as your captain In temptation’s hour;
Let His will enfold you In its light and pow’r.

Christians, this Lord Jesus Shall return again
In His Father’s glory, With His angel train;
For all wreaths of empire Meet upon His brow,
And our hearts confess Him King of glory now.

Glory then to Jesus, Who, the Prince of light,
To a world in darkness Brought the gift of sight;
Praise to God the Father; In the Spirit’s love
Praise we all together Him who reigns above.

HYMN #560 “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”

Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.
Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.

HYMN #341 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven’s employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov’reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,

People: that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

People: The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!

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.

People: Amen.

RECESSIONAL #837 "Lift High the Cross"

**Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be; Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*



Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Choir Director

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Jim Laux, Heidi Leiser, Jane Adams

Claire Igielski, Thomas Kadolph, Jeffrey Moravec

Roger Gottschalk

Nancy Hoelke

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