

God's Service Sunday, March 24, 2024

Passion Sunday

ELW Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday



WELCOME

Welcome to Palm/Passion Sunday

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

Let us take a moment to prepare our hearts and minds for God's service as we listen to our prelude. Then we will gather with our bulletins and palms in the narthex to begin.

PRELUDE *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* arr. by James

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 256)

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS (ELW p. 256)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God,

for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph

and was proclaimed messiah and king

by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,

so that, joined to his death and resurrection,

we enter into life with you;

through the same Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PROCESSION *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (ELW 344)

Let us go forth in peace,

in the name of Christ. Amen.

Refrain

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

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

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

- 3 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. *Refrain*
- 4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain*
- 5 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Was that fun? Did you like parading around with palm branches and singing?

Do you know why we did that today?

Right, today is Palm/Passion Sunday and we begin our service today like the people of Jerusalem began Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem. They had heard about Jesus' healing and his message about God's love and they were very excited that he was finally coming to their city. So excited that they welcomed him like they would welcome a new king.

How would you welcome some one very important and special to you?

Unfortunately not everyone was happy to see Jesus. People who were in power felt threatened by Jesus' popularity with the people. They thought it might cause trouble for them.

We will hear about what they did in the next part of the service. But don't get too upset when you hear they kill Jesus, because God uses it all to work for good. And next Sunday is Easter do you know what happens then?

Let us pray,

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for loving us so much, to do what you did. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 257)

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, 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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

A reading from Isaiah.

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?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (READ IN UNISON): Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I¹ am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat ¹ and my belly.
¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my ¹ years with sighing;
 my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones ¹ are consumed.
¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to ¹ my
 acquaintances;
 when they see me in the street ¹ they avoid me.
¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, ¹ out of mind;
 I am as useless as a ¹ broken pot. R
¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is ¹ all around;
 they put their heads together against me; they plot to ¹ take my life.
¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in ¹ you, O LORD.
 I have said, “You ¹ are my God.
¹⁵My times are ¹ in your hand;
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ¹ persecute me.
¹⁶Let your face shine up- ¹ on your servant;
 save me in your ¹ steadfast love.” R

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ’s example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ’s death.

A reading from Philippians.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death^l on a cross.*
Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above^l ev'ry
name. (*Phil. 2:8-9*)

SERMON

Holy Week places us at the center of the whole story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. From the "hosannas" of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the isolation of the cross. Emotions run high this week as the story of Christ's passion reaches into the depths of our own human experience. The palm and passion stories are themselves a "little Bible" of salvation for the church within the wider story of God's saving love for all.

As we hear the story of Christ's passion anew, the words and rituals of the church's worship life invite us to feel our way into this story from the inside out. We hear the shouts of blessing and come to the Passover in quiet hope. We follow to Gethsemane and to the cross, with mixed emotions. What does betrayal feel like in our bodies? What about amazement? Fear? How have we experienced ridicule or shame? How have we ourselves dismissed or derided others?

The palm and passion stories offer us a chance to contemplate Christ's sufferings and meditate on our salvation—to come side by side with Christ's passion and so to know and access our own. We are invited to honestly glimpse the workings of our own hearts. Nothing is off limits to God's grace. No human experience is untouched by the story of God's redemptive love.

Open now, Lord our hearts and mind's to hear your passion according to the Gospel of Mark. You may be seated.

GOSPEL (DRAMATIC READING) MARK 14:1-15:47

Please participate. See printed booklet.

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (isometric)* (ELW 351)

- 1 O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

- 2 How pale thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn;

how does thy face now languish,
which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion
were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.

3 What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever,
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

4 Lord, be my consolation;
shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving,
from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing
die safely in thy love.

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CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary**

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Establish peace and justice among the nations in Ukraine, Gaza, China and Taiwan, in all your world where your creation languishes in need. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Open ways for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give energy and joy to our pastor/s, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life. (*We give thanks for the courage of Oscar Arnulfo Romero, bishop and martyr, whom we commemorate today.*)

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SETTING OF THE TABLE

Today we have heard what Jesus was willing to do that we might know the abundant grace and love of God for us. What might we do with that overflowing cup given to us that our neighbor may experience and know that same love?

If you have offering to share please raise your hand and an usher will be by to collect it. If you want to share later or by credit card you may always share at www.landerlutherans.org by clicking on the green "give" button.

Let us together liberally scatter the abundant seeds of God's love.

OFFERING MUSIC *In the Cross* arr. by Lasky

SETTING OF THE TABLE

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.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food

but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (pg. 107)

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Receive who you are, become what you receive. Here is bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come! For all are welcome at the Lord's table.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC *Were You There* arr. by Visser

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *There in God's Garden* (ELW 342)

- 1 There in God's garden
stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth
the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge,
Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.
- 2 Its name is Jesus,
name that says, "Our Savior!"

There on its branches
see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils
of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.

3 Thorns not its own
are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it,
our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! it lives!
its grief has not destroyed it
nor fire consumed it.

4 See how its branches
reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says,
"Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness,
give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing."

5 This is my ending,
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980 Sunday, March 24, 2024

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord Monday, March 25, 2024

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824 Friday, March 29, 2024

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

PROCESSION *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (ELW 344) Text & Music: Public Domain

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (isometric)* (ELW 351) Text & Music: Public Domain

SETTING OF THE TABLE *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (ELW 186) Text: Public Domain Music: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress ONE LICENSE: #734503-A valid 4/17/2023-4/16/2024

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