

Sunday of the Passion

As We Gather

Palm Sunday begins with unbridled joy as we recall how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, while being acclaimed by the crowds with loud shouts of “Hosanna” and boisterous waving of palm branches. So today we begin with songs of praise and waving of palm branches as we hail Jesus as the One worthy of all glory, laud, and honor. But then the solemnness of Holy Week also begins. With a time of silence, the service shifts our focus to Jesus’ path to the cross. As foretold by prophets long ago, Jesus was stricken and afflicted, beaten and spit upon, crucified, and He died. He did this out of divine love for all of humanity, taking on Himself the sins of all people for our forgiveness. Today’s worship reflects the pattern of our lives. At times we experience unbridled joy and celebration. And then, sometimes in the next moment, we experience heartbreaking suffering. Jesus is there with us—in the joyful celebrations, in the heartbreak and suffering. He alone can transform it all into deeper love for God and neighbor. The hour of Jesus’ death on the cross is the hour of our life and salvation.

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

Opening Hymn: All Glory, Laud, and Honor

LSB 442

- ref 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 Blessèd One. Refrain
- 2 The company of angels
Is praising You on high,
And we with all creation
In chorus make reply. Refrain
- 5 As You received their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev’ry blessing,
Our good and gracious King. Refrain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise 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.

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Prayer for Forgiveness

- P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 24:7–10; antiphon: Psalm 118:26

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

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!
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Kyrie

LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon 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.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50:4–9a

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah foretells One who would “give His back to those who strike” and His “cheeks to those who pull out the beard.” Yet Jesus sets His face like flint to secure our salvation.

Gradual

Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a

[Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Epistle

Philippians 2:5–11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

Please stand

Verse

LSB 205

C **These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Holy Gospel

John 12:12-19

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

“Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Sermon Hymn: Lift High the Cross

LSB 837

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

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

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

- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain
- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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Sermon

Rev. Don Coulter

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

LSB 212

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Please stand

Closing Hymn: **Ride On, Ride On in Majesty**

LSB 441

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.
- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on His sapphire throne
Awaits His own anointed Son.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

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Announcements

Stewardship Sentence

Matt. 21:3 – *“If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”* Did Jesus really *need* the donkey? If the man had refused to give the donkey, would the work of salvation have been derailed? Of course not. But what an honor for the man who owned this donkey and foal! Likewise, the Lord needs none of us, but what an honor for God to choose to use our generosity in the work of His Church.

Lectionary Summary for Next Week - HOLY THURSDAY April 9, 2020

Exodus 24:3–11 *or* Exodus 12:1–14; Hebrews 9:11–22 *or* 1 Corinthians 11:23–32; Matthew 26:17–30 *or* John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Let Us Love One Another, as Christ Jesus Has Loved Us and Loves Us to the End
“The Lord’s Passover” (Ex. 12:11) and *“the blood of the covenant”* at Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:8) foreshow the Lord’s Supper. The blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, now covers us, and we keep His Supper *“as a feast to the Lord”* (Ex. 12:14). In Him, we see *“the God of Israel”* (Ex. 24:10), and yet He does not lay His hand on us to punish us, but from His hand we eat and drink in peace. As our High Priest, He *“entered once for all into the holy places ... by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption”* (Heb. 9:12). He shed His own blood in order to *“purify our conscience”* and bring us before His God and Father *“without blemish”* (Heb. 9:14). The holy apostles received this New Testament in His blood from the Lord Jesus *“on the night when he was betrayed,”* and they delivered the same to His Church, which we also now receive in the name and remembrance of Christ (1 Cor. 11:23–26; Matt. 26:26–28). He has *“loved his own who were in the world”* and He loves us *“to the end”* (John 13:1); therefore, let us also *“love one another”* (John 13:34).

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