



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN



Sunday, April 02, 2023

Palm Sunday
Sunbeam Sunday

GATHERING

Today's worship begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and anticipating his suffering and crucifixion. This narrative from Jesus' suffering and death will continue through Holy Week with our Bible readings on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Though Jesus is obedient even unto death on the cross, he is exalted by God. We gather to remember his offering for the life of the world, and to be fed by his life-giving mercy.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Please stand)

(please stand and face back of church)

Palm Sunday Procession

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

C And also with you!

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

C Hosanna in the highest!

*P Let us pray: O God our comfort, our strength, and our joy,
Bless these palms. May they remind us of the simple joys of living.
May we remember the excitement that comes with following Christ.
May they make us bold and brave to stand up against injustice.
May they encourage us in times of grief and pain.
We give you thanks for this time of worship to lift our voices to you.
Guide our steps through this week to come, as we remember
your suffering and death for us, and your glorious resurrection for us.
We pray for you to saving grace in our lives, as we say together,*

C "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!" Amen.

Gathering Hymn *(cranberry)*

#344 All Glory, Laud, and Honor (v. 1, 3, 5)

Prayer of the Day

P: Please join your hearts with me in prayer:

P: Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servant hood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the same perspective for our lives.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

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.

R The Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (New) #919 Remember to Dust

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mathew the twenty first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-17

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey

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.”

¹²Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³He said to them, “It is written,

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’;
but you are making it a den of robbers.”

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read,

‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise for yourself?’”

¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

Children’s message

Hymn (cranberry) #595 Jesus Loves Me

Message: Are you willing to be a donkey?

Pastor John Omans

Message Song (cranberry) #808 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Blessing of Children of Families

(Please Stand)

Apostles’ Creed (cranberry) pg. 105

The Prayers of the Church

P: Hear us,, O God

C: Your mercy is great.

Prayer Response (cranberry) #751 O Lord Hear My Prayer

Sharing The Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: We share Christ's peace with each other

(please be seated)

THANKSGIVING

Offering invitation (spoken by Pastor)

(Offering may be placed in offering plates near exits)

Stewardship Minute

P Jesus says, "I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." (John 15:15) As friends, Jesus calls us to be his partners in his work in the world. It means that Jesus invites us to be 'stewards' (another word is 'caretakers') of his love, mercy, and kindness in our relationships to others. Our Palm Sunday bible lessons today can help us to think about ways we can carry his love, mercy, and kindness to others – in our families, as members of the church, as members of school, places of work, and in our communities. Thank you to those serving today – helping with worship and music, and helping with our pancake breakfast following worship. Thank you for all the ways you serve, help, share, and give in your daily lives! Thanks be to God!

Offering prayer

P: Let us pray together:

P: Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

P God, the giver of love, +Christ, the resurrection, and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C Amen.

(Please stand)

SENDING

Sending Hymn (cranberry) #634 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! (v. 1, 2, 5, 6)

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

C Thanks be to God.

+++++

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Jan Macklay

Council Person: Rhonda Behsmann

Reader: Brenda Langerud

Ushers: Kevin & Cindy Dickie

Acolyte: Madison McColley

Videographer: Pam Grunzke

Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.

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