

Palm Sunday



The service of Passion Sunday, beginning with the procession with palms, reflects the contrasting attitudes toward Jesus that were on display during the days leading up to His crucifixion. “Palm Sunday” is named after the palms which were spread before Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. The acclamation of the people, “Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the

Lord,” clearly reveal that they hailed Jesus as the messianic king. Yet only days later, our Lord would hear the cry “Crucify!” This contrast is reflected on this day as the joy of His triumphal entry into Jerusalem gives way to the somber remembrance of His passion. The extended reading from the Passion narrative sets before the people of God all that our Lord did on our behalf. Thus is the Church prepared to enter Holy Week—the most important week of the church year.

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

The congregation stands and faces the entrance to the nave.

GREETING

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

C **Amen.**

P *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

C **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

COLLECT

P *Let us pray....Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts, and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

HOLY GOSPEL

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

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

P *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

P *Let us go forth in peace*

C **In the name of the Lord.**

P *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

C **Hosanna in the highest.**

(the Service continues with the first hymn)

*As the processional cross passes,
the congregation turns towards it and then to the front.*

Palm Sunday - The Sunday of the Passion

March 24, 2024

INTROIT

Psalm 24:7-10; Antiphon: Psalm 118:26

Blessed 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!

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

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Saviour 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]♪*

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.*



RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *Lord, in your mercy,*

C *hear our prayer*

John 12:12-19 (ESV)

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So 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!”

¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

¹⁶His 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.

¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

Zechariah 9:9-12 (ESV)

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 12:20-43 (ESV)

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks.

²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it

for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷ “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴ So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” ³⁵ So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know

where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. ³⁷ Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸ so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,

and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

³⁹ Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

⁴⁰ “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn,

and I would heal them.”

⁴¹ Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. ⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

The top three best-selling books all present visions of hope, but how they hope to achieve it is a much different story. Listen to Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler’s message “Eucatastrophe” based on Mark 16:6-7 next Sunday on The Lutheran Hour.

Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:

March 31: Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of Our Lord
Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 16 (v. 10); 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8