

Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022

Processional Reading: Luke 19:29-35

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Congregation: "Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Processional Song "All Glory Laud and Honor"

#344

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ, a humble king. Let his way continue to show us how to live lives of grace and mercy. As we know where we are headed this Holy Week, help us to see your action through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Reading: Zechariah 9:9-17

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

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

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

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

For I have bent Judah as my bow;

I have made Ephraim its arrow.

I will arouse your sons, O Zion,

against your sons, O Greece,

and wield you like a warrior's sword.

Then the LORD will appear over them,

and his arrow go forth like lightning;
the Lord GOD will sound the trumpet
and march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.

The LORD of hosts will protect them,
and they shall devour and tread down the slingers;
they shall drink their blood like wine,
and be full like a bowl,
drenched like the corners of the altar.

On that day the LORD their God will save them
for they are the flock of his people;
for like the jewels of a crown
they shall shine on his land.

For what goodness and beauty are his!

Grain shall make the young men flourish,
and new wine the young women.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 19:36-40

As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,
"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"
Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The Gospel of the Lord.
ALL: Praise be to God.

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN

We get this story of a humble king.

The unexpected appearance of humility in the face of what Jesus knew was coming his way.

While he knew what was coming, the crowds simply wanted to celebrate this new way. A new king. A new ruler. Imagine the crowd with the rush of prophetic texts running through their minds telling of one who will come. Perhaps they are reminded of John who cried out in the wilderness of a new way to be prepared.

With shouts of hosanna, God save us, they welcomed him. They saw a reprieve from what had been, and they were hopeful. It was time to usher in a new way.

But.

His reign wasn't what they had hoped for, but it was more than what they, and us, needed. It wasn't the saving they anticipated with their shouts of "hosanna."

We know what their "God save us" cries really meant. And, we know God's way of making that happen.

For us, as people of faith, hearing this story again that we hear year after year, we too shout the hosanna. We too celebrate the coming of a new way. A new ruler. Our king. But, we know the story.

Palm Sunday begins for us, as it did for them, Holy Week.

As we have been on this Lent journey with our midweek and Sunday morning themes, we've perhaps come to our own moments of being ready to shout that Hosanna, God save us. Or, at least thought of life moments where that was the case.

On Wednesday evenings we have explored those feelings of brokenness. Reflecting on our own imperfections, guilt, shame, pride, and hopelessness, we have been reminded that while we think those things could separate us from God's love, and society does its part to tell us that is indeed the case, God in fact loves us in spite of them.

And, as church, on Sunday mornings we have taken a deeper look at our Mission Statement and what it means to be "Your neighborhood church. Where each is known – seen – loved."

We have heard the call to be a church that meets people where they are at, and as people of faith, or perhaps even not, to be met wherever we are at in our journey, and there is an embrace in that moment.

We know, in saying that, that each one of us comes to the body of Christ as someone who is, or has been, broken. We come to the body of Christ knowing that we are loved by God, no matter the baggage that comes with our stories. We are seen by God for who God made us to be, no matter what the world might say to the contrary.

And so, we come to this Holy Week, starting with these Palm Sunday hosannas, knowing the promise that is to come to us. But we do so committed to the holy work of this holy week. We know that we can't just skip to the feel good parts. It would be wonderful if we could jump from Hosanna and palm branches to the glee of the empty tomb. But we can't.

So, we continue this journey. We go with Christ and his disciples to that table and receive that meal of forgiveness. And from there we go and we sit at the foot of the cross hearing his words.

And then we wait. And that wait can take a really long time. Yes, it is three days in the Jesus story, but for many, that three day wait until newness comes can feel like an eternity.

And on that day, as the sun rises, we are, again, made new. Again. And Again. And again.

Indeed. Hosanna. God saves us.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

Song of the Day **“What Wondrous Love Is This”** **#666 vs. 1,3,4**

Apostles' Creed

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in Christ's passover from death to new life, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God, most holy and humble, plant in your church Christ's spirit of humility. Remove any barriers preventing us from seeing his saving work on the cross. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal your will for all creation through stones, seas, mountains, and meadows. In the splendor of what you have made, show us your care for everything, both great and small. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rescue those who suffer torture, and free those held captive by others. Bring to light the hidden systems that perpetuate injustice among your people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour courage and hope into people who feel like they are wasting away in distress and grief (*especially*). Restore their trust in you, even as you meet their every need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Open our hearts and minds to receive the words that you speak. Give us words to encourage the weary and to sustain one another in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gather your saints into the new covenant that Christ has established for all creation. When we fall into sin, continually renew us until Christ dwells with us again in fullness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Attend to the needs of the whole world with your saving grace, and lead us all into new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering

“Hosanna, Sing Hosanna”

Choir

Offertory prayer

Generous God,
you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.
Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

Amen.

Words of Institution – We invite you to find bread and wine or juice and partake in this Holy Meal.

(Holding the bread) In the night in which we was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, gave thanks and gave it for all to eat saying, “This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

(Holding the cup) Again after supper he took the cup, and after giving thanks he 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 sins. So often as you do this, remember me.”

Once you’ve taken the elements say, Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

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.

Blessing

God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

Amen.

Anthem

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Luke 19:41-44

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

Announcements

Maundy Thursday (April 14) worship will be at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday (April 15) worship will be the Seven Last Words at 6:30 p.m.

Easter morning – 8 a.m. rolls and coffee. Join friends and family before worship at 9!

100TH Birthday Party for Bob Anderson

April 19, 2-5 p.m. at Good Shepherd

Stand in the Light Memory Choir concert

Thursday, April 21

10 a.m. dress rehearsal open to the public

6:30 p.m. concert

FREE BUT TICKETS ARE REQUIRED. Call 715-210-4165.

Stand in the Light Memory Choir with Luther College Nordic Choir

At the Pablo Center | May 23 | RCU Theatre

FREE BUT TICKETS ARE REQUIRED – Contact the Pablo Center (715) 492-0240.

I WON'T FORGET - MEMORIES AND MUSIC

Join us for an evening of choral music featuring the Luther College Nordic Choir from Decorah, Iowa and the Stand In The Light Memory Choir from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. This performance is in support of the Standing in the Light Memory Choir and the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Eau Claire County. Their work raises awareness and supports a strong community for adults with memory loss and those with disabilities.