

*We invite, encourage, educate and empower
all people to follow God and serve others.”*

Palm Sunday

March 25, 2018

Many of those involved in the story of the Passion of Christ came to a crossroads and had to decide which way to go. Some chose well, some did not, and the stories of each of these experiences at various crossroads help us to know what to do and what not to do when we encounter similar crossroads in our own lives. In today's Palm Sunday service, we remember that when Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time amid palm branches and praises, he knows the suffering that awaits him there, yet he does not turn back. In the observance of this remarkable day, we come to see as well that though we know suffering is part of being a follower of Christ, we must carry on for him. Let readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with Simon the Zealot and hymns help you to approach the crossroads of suffering with courage and strength.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING DIALOGUE

Today we recall our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. With palm branches, we honor him as our King.

Today begins the most solemn week of the church year.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

On this day Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly to suffer and to die and was greeted with branches of palm. Let these branches be for us symbols of martyrdom and majesty. May we who carry them follow Christ in the way of the cross which leads to life; through Christ who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

CONGREGATION (those who desire): MOVE TO THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY FOR THE PROCESSIONAL.

PROCESSIONAL READING: John 12:12-19

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."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

#344 VS 1, 3 & 5

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

- 3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went; our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain***
- 5. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. *Refrain***

OPENING DIALOGUE

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

Therefore we give glory to God who raised him up and gave us the promise of salvation. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Gracious God, we confess our faithless terror at the crossroad of suffering for your sake. We treasure the good life; we cling to the easy life; we fail to hear your call to walk in those ways that might bring us pain and suffering for the sake of others. We often choose to wrap ourselves in our self-made cocoon of personal preservation and seek to escape your call to ways that might put us among the hurting.

Forgive our unwillingness to take up the cross marked with the names of the poor and vulnerable. Fill us with the Spirit so that we might overflow with the serving that proclaims your very presence with us.

I have the honor and privilege, by the grace of God, of announcing to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and free—free to share the steadfast love of God with all. Amen.

SONG *"How Majestic is Your Name"*

Oh, Lord, our Lord

How majestic is Your Name in all the earth

Oh, Lord, our Lord

How majestic is Your Name in all the earth

Oh, Lord, we praise Your Name

Oh Lord, we magnify Your Name

Prince of peace, mighty God

Oh, Lord God Almighty

Oh, Lord, our Lord

How majestic is Your Name in all the earth

Oh, Lord, our Lord

How majestic is Your Name in all the earth

Oh, Lord, we praise Your Name

Oh Lord, we magnify Your Name

Prince of peace, mighty God

Oh, Lord God Almighty

Prince of peace, mighty God

Oh, Lord God Almighty

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 3:13-18

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:20-36

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate

their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that 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 standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴ The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.”

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

WELCOME THE CHILDREN *“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*

**Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

**“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heav’n our King.**

Oh, may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

SERMON

“Suffering”

Pastor Deb Grismer

HYMN

“Grace Flows Down”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me

It covers me..... It covers me.....
It covers me..... It covers me.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me.

It covers me..... It covers me.....
It covers me..... It covers me.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me.

From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father,

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen**

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O Lord, Hear My Prayer #751 – sing through twice

Prayer petitions are read

O Lord, Hear My Prayer #751 – sing through twice

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

*May the grace of our suffering Savior, the love of our all-knowing God,
and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit be with us now and
forever. Amen.*

SENDING SONG

“Stay With Me”

#348

VISUAL BENEDICTION (As hymn is sung)

*The wooden cross is brought to the front of the church to remind us of
where Jesus’ journey will take him before the triumph of the empty
tomb on Easter morning.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com Copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #38461. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.