

Home worship service during time of isolation and social distancing.

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2020

Today we recall both our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palms and clothing paving the way and also his passion. We begin today a truly "holy" week, one set apart for the special purpose of remembering and honoring Christ for the gift of salvation through his "holy, precious blood, and his innocent suffering and death."



A suggestion for a fun project, make paper palm branches for Palm Sunday. Directions for this palm branch can be found on youtube at <https://youtu.be/YRcf95hKdB4>

L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

C Hosanna to the Son of David.

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.

Hymn: All Glory, Laud, and Honor Lutheran Service Book 442, Lutheran Worship 102, The Lutheran Hymnal 160

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re-deem - er, King,
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.
To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

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

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path.

We ask that you bless children and all those who celebrate with us Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Grant that we may ever hail Jesus as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

L Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,

C **have mercy and hear us.**

L Since we have gathered to hear God's Word, let us 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:

C **God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

L 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.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Collect of the Day

L 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.

G Amen.

Zechariah 9:9-12

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.

Psalm 118:19-29 (antiphon: v. 26)

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

²³This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!

²⁶Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.

²⁹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Philippians 2:5-11

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 made himself nothing, 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.

Verse of the Day He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Phil. 2:8b

Matthew 21:1-9

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front 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, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

**☐ 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.**

Hymn: Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

Lutheran Service Book 441, Lutheran Worship 105, The Lutheran Hymnal 162



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Thy last and
5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy tri - umphs
ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and
fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on His
pomp ride on to die. Bow Thy meek head to



sue Thy road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
won - d'ring eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
sap - phire throne A - waits His own a - noint - ed Son.
mor - tal pain, Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

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Devotional Thoughts (see below)

L I cry to You, O Lord;

C in the morning my prayer comes before You.

L Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

C and uphold me with a willing spirit.

L My mouth is filled with Your praise,

C and with Your glory all the day.

L Every day I will bless You

C and praise Your name forever and ever.

L By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness,

C O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

L Bless the Lord, O my soul;

C and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

L He redeems your life from the pit

C and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;

C let my cry come to You.

L Let us pray. Spare Your people, O Lord! Preserve us from this and every illness. Give healing and strength to those who are sick, protect those who care for them, and grant us steady minds and calm hearts in the face of fear. Comfort and protect those we hold dear in our hearts and especially those who are far from us. You have borne our infirmities in this human flesh and purchased us with Your own blood. Keep us in this faith and embolden us in love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Hymn: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna,

Lutheran Service Book 443, Lutheran Worship 106, The Lutheran Hymnal 161

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing;

Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing And chant - ing clear and loud.
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,
The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state
Oh, may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice

The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

Devotional thoughts:

“To dream the impossible dream, To fight the unbeatable foe, To bear with unbearable sorrow, To run where the brave dare not go” These words written by Joe Darion for the Tony Award winning musical *Man of La Mancha* could well have been sung by the crowds on the first Palm Sunday as Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

The adoring crowds shouting “Hosanna” and lining the route from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem had an Impossible Dream. Their impossible dream was to defeat an unbeatable foe. They saw the Roman Empire as foul and wicked gentile overlords. They were idolaters who imposed unjust taxes. They were pagans who violated every sense of decency and righteousness. But now coming into Jerusalem was a champion named Jesus, Savior.

Wasn't the Old Testament filled with such champions who defeated unbeatable foes? What about David and his breathtaking defeat of the disgusting giant Goliath? What about Sampson and his awesome deeds? What about Joshua and the astounding destruction of Jericho? Not to mention Moses and the whole multitude of Old Testament heroes. Maybe this dream wasn't impossible after all.

In fact only a few generations before an unbeatable foe had been driven out of Jerusalem and the temple was cleansed from pagan defilement. The Seleucids (who were every bit as hated as the Romans) were defeated by the great Maccabean Revolt of 167BC. In celebration of the recapture of Jerusalem and the rededication of the temple, they sang hymns and waved palm branches (1 Maccabees 13:49-52; 2 Maccabees 10:1-9).

Now they are waving palm branches and singing again. They are singing Psalm 118, one of the great Passover Psalms.

Save us [Hosanna in Hebrew], we pray, O Lord!

O Lord, we pray, give us success!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! (Psalm 118:25-26)

No, their dream was not impossible. Jesus had at His disposal twelve legions of angels (Matthew 26:53), more than enough to defeat any Roman army. No, their dream was not impossible but theirs was the wrong dream!

Jesus explained this to Pilate when He said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world” (John 18:36).

Jesus had not come into the world to defeat the Romans and relieve the people from the burden of taxes. Jesus came into the world to defeat a much more unbeatable foe, death itself! On the cross the loathsome enemies of sin, death, and the devil would fall in defeat. As St. Paul writes, “Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54). Now we sing “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” Jesus lives! The victory's won! Death no longer can appall me.

It seems that today one of the highest and most noble aspirations is to follow your dream. Young people are constantly encouraged to follow their hearts. To obtain our ambitions, dreams, and goals is the epitome of success!

But do we ever stop to ask if we have the right dream? Is it noble to follow a false, misleading dream? Isn't it more proper to ask, “What does God want me to do?” “How can I best serve the Lord?”

It seems that the news regarding Covid-19 becomes more dire each day. Infection rates and the death tolls are rising to unheard of numbers. It is natural for us to dream the impossible dream that some cure or treatment will be found. As God's people we sincerely pray “to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20) that this current scourge would come to an end. And then we trust that God will answer us in His own time and in His own way according to His good and gracious will.

However, we dare not turn our dreams into God's will. We are called to humbly join Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and pray, “Not my will, but Thine, be done” (Luke 22:42).

As we examine Scripture, we can discern God's will. It is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).

What is my impossible dream? It is that we and all the Christian people would take up our cross and follow Jesus during this coming Holy Week and always. How? We do this by bearing each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and sharing with those in need (Ephesians 4:28). This time of national crisis has provided ample opportunity for us to do this.

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

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