

MARCH 28, 2021 - PALM SUNDAY - Worship with Holy Communion

Preparing for worship:

We will have Holy Communion together - separately this worship time.

You will need either wine or grape juice and bread of some kind.

You may use what cups & plates you have – do not go out & purchase.

Here is a list: a white cloth, large cup or individual ones, a large paten(plate) for bread or small – depending on the size of your family. A cross and a candle.

Welcome to worship,

This Liturgy is from the Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship and the modified prayers this morning are based on those from Sundays & Seasons. Shut off all the distractions in your home. Sit in the quiet for a bit – take some deep breaths. Light the candle.

GATHERING TOGETHER

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

C. Hosanna in the highest!

The Holy Gospel: Mark 11: 1-11

P. The Gospel of our Lord

C. Praise to you o Christ !

Hymn: LBW 108 / ELW 344 - All Glory Laud and Honor

The Lord be with you – and also with you

The Prayer of the day: Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood 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. Amen.

THE WORD

The Old Testament lesson is from **Isaiah 50:4-9**

Psalm 31:9-16 found on page 229

The New Testament lesson is from **Philippians 2:5-11**

Sermon- Rev.Norine Gullons

Names are important to people. It is usually the first way of identifying ourselves.

We teach little babies the basics – momma dada nana poppa and the names of their brothers and sisters. We teach our toddlers to make friends by saying Hi my name is what is your name?

It is quite probable that some of the people who were on the side of the road watching Jesus arriving with palm branches waving didn't even know his name.

Who is this?

The name of Jesus means - God saves. Sometimes the word Christ- chosen one -is added so then it means - chosen by God to save.

Who is this one hailed by people such as peasants, lepers, cripples and laborers as the messiah? Who is this that rides into a city like a King?

The gospel of Mark describes the infatuation that many people had with Jesus- as if he were a rock star. "People spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields." It is not hard to imagine a type of Woodstock scene of the 1960's when we think about Palm Sunday. This entry into

Jerusalem is important, as this story relates one of the wildest and most politically explosive acts of Jesus ministry.

This day, known as Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday, begins our Holy Week. It is a time of great contrasts of experience and emotion as we become absorbed again in the account of events when God's salvation history in Jesus Christ comes into reality. We remember the events of the last few days of Jesus life on earth. He chose to die on the cross, rather than stop telling people about God's love.

There is nothing about JESUS – his entry into the city, his confrontation with authority, his brutal and lonely death- nothing that would inspire anyone to devotion. He arrives not in power – but in weakness: – not in might – but in vulnerability: not in judgement-but in mercy; not in vengeance but in love.

Nothing about him conforms to the expectations of a world that has come to believe above all things that makes right or, at the very least, that might wins.

Our answer to the question is- this is Jesus, the one we confess. He died – not in order to make it possible for God to love us but rather to demonstrate that God already does love us and that God's love is our only hope. This is Jesus the one we proclaim each week as Messiah and Lord, source of hope and healing. This is Jesus, whose story comes to a climax this week in order that our story might begin a new and afresh with the hope and promise of a good ending.

Jesus rides a lowly colt. He chooses to enter a deadly situation without force or protection. He gives himself freely and without reservation. This is a prophetic sign. a sign of God's vulnerable love. It risks everything and promises to gain all.

Jesus, entering Jerusalem, riding humbly on a colt, is the miracle of God's complete attention on the world.

Halfway down the Mount of Olives there is a small chapel in the shape of a tear drop. It is called Dominus Flevit – the Lord weeps. It is the traditional location where Jesus wept over the city. Pilgrims gather there to share the eucharist as they move toward Jerusalem. It is a moment to recall the great cost of reconciliation, as God sent Jesus into the world to bring all back to God's powerful love. Who is this?

It's not just the question of the day .It is the question of the week we call holy and the truth be told it is the question of the ages.

Week after week we answer that question in trust and in confidence, raising our voices above our own culture to speak his name and to point to God's redemption. Perhaps it is enough to just ask the question so that each of us can answer for ourselves. This is Jesus – the prophet of Nazareth who is also Christ the Lord. Amen.

Hymn: LBW 121 / ELW 346 - Ride On, Ride On in Majesty !

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - BY ANDY KALNINS

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility.
Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will.
Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection:
restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas

affected by climate change , grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are . . . strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer *especially*; grant respite and renewal. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you always - and also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and 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 sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please take time now to have your Communion at home.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

AS PALM SUNDAY IS THE BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK THERE IS NO DISMISSAL UNTIL EASTER SUNDAY.

HYMN LBW 104 / ELW 324 - In the Cross of Christ I Glory