



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY
April 5, 2020
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
Brooklyn Center, MN

PRELUDE

WELCOME & PRAYER

PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL

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

Hosanna in the highest!

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead 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, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter in life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #344**“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”****Refrain**

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.</p> | 1 | <p>You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
| <p>2 The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply. <i>Refrain</i></p> | 3 | <p>The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
| <p>4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. <i>Refrain</i></p> | 5 | <p>Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. <i>Refrain</i></p> |

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

Hosanna in the highest!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together.....

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORSHIP TEAM SONG**Hosanna**

Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
(Washed away)

Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

Hosanna hosanna

NEW TESTAMENT READING Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,

ANTHEM

Ride On, King Jesus

Spiritual

arr. Evelyn R. Larter

*Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hinder me,
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, no man can-a hinder me.
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, no man can-a hinder me.
King Jesus rides a milk white horse. No man works like Him.
The river of Jordan He did cross. No man works like Him.
Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hinder me,
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, no man can-a hinder me.
I know that my redeemer lives, no man works like Him.
And of His blessing freely gives, No man works like Him.
Oh, Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hinder me,
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, no man can-a hinder me.
Ride on, King Jesus, No man can-a hinder me,
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, no man can-a hinder me.
Ride on, King Jesus.*

READING from OUR LORD'S PASSION Matthew 27:38-54

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those

who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴²“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” ⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

SERMON

“The Palms and The Passion”

Well, here we go. It’s Palm Sunday and so Holy Week begins! Many of us may remember when Palm Sunday used to be *just* Palm Sunday in Lutheran Churches. I remember it being sort of like a wonderful parade that started off a week-long festival crowned by Easter Sunday worship, followed by a traditional Easter-Egg hunt with all my cousins and a glorious ham dinner with the whole family.

Now, however, it is Palm *slash* Passion Sunday. This happened because people weren’t showing up for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. They were going from the triumphant “Hosannas” of Palm Sunday to the glorious “He is Risen” of Easter Sunday without going through the horrifying “Crucify Him!” of Good Friday. Palm Sunday had become like a festive dress rehearsal for Easter. So Lutheran churches started making today into Palm *slash* Passion Sunday so that people would hear the account of Jesus riding into the old city of Jerusalem on a donkey but also hear of our Lord’s Passion—otherwise known as the betrayal, denial, insulting, spitting, beating, suffering death of Jesus of Nazareth. And hey, I understand the impulse. Who doesn’t want to go from glory to glory and just skip the messy embarrassing uncomfortable stuff in the middle?

Anne Lamott puts it in more personal terms, “I don’t have the right personality for Good Friday, for the crucifixion,” she writes. “I’d like to skip ahead to the resurrection. In fact, I’d like to skip ahead to the resurrection vision of one of the kids in our Sunday School, who drew a picture of the Easter Bunny outside the tomb. Everlasting life and a basketful of chocolates. Now you’re talking.”

But today in our church year is the first day of holy week and so it is Palm-Passion Sunday. For we know that today’s joyful shouts of “hosanna” will soon be drowned out and forgotten when the very same crowds shout “crucify him” five days later. Perhaps we would like to fast forward past that inconvenient truth because we find the incongruence of the fickle crowd of long ago to be just a little bit too familiar for comfort. Overall, we prefer a religion that focuses on the positive; one that is uplifting. I heard of a big California megachurch that told the architect for their new building, “We do not want any crosses, either outside or inside. None. We don’t want anybody to think weakness or failure.”

Yet, Jesus emptied himself, the apostle Paul wrote, "taking the form of a slave, and became obedient to the point of death on a cross." We may want to zoom in to the more positive, uplifting parts of the story- God's love and grace and mercy and forgiveness. But the cross is so important. Why? Because in Christ Jesus God has come as close as it is possible for God to come to us!

In the cross God comes close to each of us proclaiming, "This is the depth of my love for you. I would rather die than be without you." From his hewn throne of a cross God in Christ looks at the world and no one escapes his judgment...those who love him, those who betray him, those who ignore him, and those who execute him. He judges us all and the judgement is.....FORGIVENESS. "Forgive them Father for they know not what they are doing."

Jesus didn't die to stop us from being sinners, but Jesus died to show us just how much we're loved as we are sinners and will continue to be so. We are reminded that we're loved when we get it right and when we get it wrong. We are reminded that we're loved when we are good and when we're bad. We are reminded that we're loved when we appreciate God and when we are guilty of not. In the suffering and death of Jesus, God shows us just how far God will go that we might know God's immeasurable love.

I love the true story of a Mom whose husband had died and was having a terrible time with her teenage daughter. Her daughter was constantly in trouble. She ran away but when she back, her mother took her in. She ran away again and the mother took her back. The girl was in trouble with the neighbors, the school and finally the police. One day one of the neighbors said to her, "I would throw her out!" The mother replied, "I might be tempted to do that too if she was yours. But she isn't. She's mine and we both belong to God. I've decided that if God can love a person like me with all my shortcomings, surely, I can hang in there with her right now when she needs me most. This mother's love for her daughter is a human glimpse that points us to the depth of God's relentless love for us all. This is the message of the cross!

But there's more, in the cross Jesus also comes close to us as Suffering Servant, the Wounded Healer: to align himself with our struggle, to enter our suffering. He came to teach us about the kind of faith that will sustain in the barren places, provide guidance through the darkest valleys; the kind of faith that will strengthen us when we are faced with what seems like overwhelming obstacles.

William Willimon (retired bishop in the United Methodist Church) suggests- only half in jest- that churches should post a sign at the front door on the Saturday before Easter that reads: "No one gets in who wasn't here on Friday." And maybe he has a point! We are Easter people, but we live in a Good Friday world. Easter is indeed coming, but only after Good Friday. Innocent people suffer, natural disasters occur, tests come back positive, people get cancer. And yet, until one has experienced a few Good Fridays in their life, there's really no way they can fully understand the profound meaning, personal significance, or real power of Easter. It is in the cross that we see most vividly just how much God is with us and for us- most profoundly in times of our own struggle and hurt.

Fred Craddock- who passed away a few years ago, was one of our nation's great preachers and also my husband's preaching professor. Craddock describes the cross in terms of a child falling down and skinning their elbow or knees. The child comes running to mother. The mother picks up the child and says, "Let me kiss it and make it well." She picks up the child, kisses the skinned places, holds the child in her lap, and all is well. Did her kiss make it well? No. It was that ten minutes in her lap. Just sitting in the lap of love and seeing the mother crying. "Mother, why are you crying? I'm the one who hurt myself." "Because you hurt," the mother says, "I hurt." That does more for the child than all the bandages and medicine in the world, just sitting in the mother's lap.

"What is the cross?" Fred Craddock asks. "Can I say it this way? It is to sit for a few minutes in the lap of God, who hurts because you hurt."

Today as we enter into this most holy of weeks, may we continue to reflect on God's love. God's open, all-encompassing, and welcoming love, that we might be able to show that love to all we meet, and EVEN TO OURSELVES. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN of the DAY

#338

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and burdens of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.

CONFESSION of FAITH**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.**

OFFERING

(This would be the time to place your offering into an envelope and mail it to Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, 5929 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center, MN 554429. **Thank you for being a faithful steward! It is our joy to respond back to God of all that God has given and done for us.**)

OFFERING RESPONSE

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

10,000 Reasons

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Worship Your holy name Lord I'll worship Your holy name

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world and all who are in need.

(a brief silence)

Holy God, as we move through this week, give us the gifts of concentration, of focus, and of empathy, as we seek to determine where your astonishing story, which is at once so familiar and yet so incredible, fits with our own narratives. We believe wholeheartedly that your passion and death have significance beyond our comprehension. Allow us to be touched and awestruck by the holy events of this week and to claim them once again for our own lives. Lord in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

Loving God, your heart overflows with compassion for all of your whole creation. Pour out your Spirit on everyone who is being tested for and being treated for the coronavirus, as well as their families and loved ones. Surround them with your love and care. Be especially with all the medical people who are caring for those who have the virus. Keep them safe as they care for others and give them the medical supplies and help that they need. Lord in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you know our needs and cares and the needs and cares of our neighbors. In this time of being physically separated, help us to remember to reach out with tools of technology-phones and computers- to our sisters and brothers in Christ. Let us be a listening ear and a supportive heart for others and graciously receive support as well. In those times when we are feeling lonely and anxious and afraid, help us, O Lord, to remember that you are with us always. Lord in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, thank you for Cross of Glory community of faith. Continue to be with the call committee in this important time of discernment. Give to the congregation your strength and your courage. Protect all who feel a loss of income and job. Surround those who are dealing with health issues at this time:

Bev Hoium

Gil Hartlage

Marcy Hartlage

Terry Stejskal

Vicky Jacobson

Doris Boyum

Janice Solberg

Lord in your mercy....

Hear our prayer.

We raise our voices to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray.....

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.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING FORTH HYMN #264 verses 1, 2 & 4 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

- | | | |
|--|----------------|--|
| 1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story: | Refrain | Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word! |
| 2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! <i>Refrain</i> | 4 | His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: <i>Refrain</i> |

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Walk in the strength and the love of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, April 19, after the 9:30 a.m. virtual worship service, Cross of Glory Lutheran Church will have a virtual congregational meeting for the purpose of calling the congregation's next pastor.

This meeting will occur by the options outlined in a mailing that you have received from the church. You can select either option #2 (telephone) or option #4 (video conference.) These options will be the way congregational members can participate in the meeting.

When you receive the worship bulletin for April 19 in the mail, a ballot will also be included for your vote. Please mail your ballot back to the church office by April 21.