

PALM SUNDAY



Step by Step March 24, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Today's Gospel looks at the first day of Holy Week, and the Passion carries us on to Jesus' tomb. Throughout the entire week, and since His transfiguration, our Lord has moved toward the cross step by step. Despite opposition from crowds and His circle of friends, He has been determined to love us to death so that He might open heaven to us by the grace of God. Zechariah had written about the procession centuries earlier, and Paul proclaims that God the Father has exalted Jesus for His steadfast commitment to our salvation. But this is no mere history! We also are called to follow, to live through each day, step by step, faithful under various circumstances yet confident of mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS and PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” 443

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Today is the beginning of Holy Week. During it we shall recall how our Savior gave His life so that our sins may all be forgiven, and heaven opened to us.

People: **Even during worship, our minds wander to other concerns.**

Pastor: These concerns are already known to God. Give them into His loving hands for resolution but turn your hearts and minds to focus on our Lord's step-by-step determination to free us from every sin. Confident of the forgiveness He won through His glorious death and resurrection, let us then admit our sinful condition to Him and to one another.

People: **I confess to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in my thinking, speaking, and acting. I am mired in sin and incapable of saving myself. Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake and because of His sacrifice for us fallen creatures, we beg You to forgive, strengthen, and turn us to Your will so that we may follow our Savior in loving service to You and to one another.**

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, who gave Himself over to death that we might have eternal life, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

(Share the peace of Christ with those around you)

HYMN 8:00 AM “All Hail the Power Of Jesus Name” 549 1,3,4,5

SONG 11:00 AM Preschool Children “God's Love” and “My God is So Great”

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

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.

People: **Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zechariah 9:9–12* (The King comes humbly on a donkey.)

Rejoice 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.

I 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.

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Philippians 2:5–11* (Because of His humble death, Christ has been exalted by the Father.)

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Philippians 2:8b*

Pastor: He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,

People: **even death on a cross.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 12:12–19* (The triumphal entry)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “All Glory Laud and Honor” 442

SERMON “Step by Step into Life” John 12:12-19

CREED *Apostles Creed*

People: **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.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Because our Lord humbled Himself and became obedient even to death on the cross, now He is highly exalted, at the Father’s right hand, ready and able to receive our prayers and accept our praise. Let us go to Him in prayer for all people in their various circumstances.

For people without the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter, that the Holy Spirit would hear their cries and groans, bringing tears of relief and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For all who face this day burdened with illness or addiction, ongoing conflict with people around them, or fear of what might happen, that God would assure them of His

gracious presence and strengthen their faith in His guidance and protection, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: For those who serve the needs of others as they provide medical and emergency care, as they maintain order in our communities and peace across borders, and as they put themselves in danger that their neighbors may find the protection they need, that God would use the gifts He has placed within them to serve in compassion and love, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: For loving families and caring communities, for schools and institutions of higher learning, wherever people gather to share and build up, that God would provide them the wisdom and understanding they need to do His will, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: For people near and dear to us, [*especially . . .*], that God would visit, relieve, and console them in His grace and mercy, and for the church here and around the world, that our Lord would strengthen our faith and move us to be His servants, drawing people to His glorious death and resurrection and serving Him with all that we are and have, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who invites us to call you father and pray together the prayer He has given us:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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 *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The blessing of our glorious God—the Father who sent His Son; the ✠ Son whose glory was to give His life that we might live forever; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in our hearts to follow Him step by step—be with you, now and always.

People: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” 441

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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