

Palm Sunday



April 9, 2020

6:30 P.M.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

402 N. 1st Street, Lindsborg, KS 67456

www.melclindsborg.org FB: Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lindsborg

Palm Sunday

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

JESUS' TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Jesus comes to the city, ready to face the tasks set before him by God Almighty, named and yet unnamed, those who have heard him speak are unprepared even as they have been fully prepared. We, too, are unprepared even as we have been fully prepared for that which is to come. We glorify God in the known and in the unknown!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:1-11

21When 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 fulfil 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.'***

This is the Gospel of our Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The people raise their palm branches.

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. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Processional Hymn:

All Glory, Laud and Honor

#344

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

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.

WORD

We come, aware of Jesus, our Triumphant Messiah! He has come to save the world from sin and destruction! He has come to heal and lift up the lowly. Jesus acknowledges everyone, he feeds all who seek food, he is our blessing and our hope! (pause)

And yet we do not get to live in the illusion that our worship, our honoring of Jesus is going to make everything alright. God alone gives the victory, God alone is our salvation. The service turns as we move away from our own understanding of Jesus as Messiah to the Passion Jesus has for us and for our salvation, even to death on the cross.

Our first reading is from Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵*The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.*

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷*The Lord GOD helps me;*
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me, who will declare me guilty?

Go to Dark Gethsemane, *verses 1-2 #347*

The Gospel According to Matthew 27: 11-54

Matthew 27:11-54

Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “**You say so.**” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “**Barabbas.**” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “**Let him be crucified!**” Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “**Let him be crucified!**”

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people as a whole answered, “**His blood be on us and on our children!**” So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and 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!” They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

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

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and 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." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "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. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And 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?**" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At 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. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now 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!"

Go to Dark Gethsemane, verse 3

#347

Period of Silence

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,

to the glory of God the Father.

MEAL

Offering & Offertory Prayer *During this time of distancing for the health of the nation, our offerings are just as important as times when we gather. Church staff need to be paid as do the utilities and bills for our buildings. Please check with the church office to see how best to make sure your offering is received.*

Let us pray: Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as your people, gathered by the Spirit to be generous with the abundance you have given to us. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

Spiritual Communion In a time when we are unable to be at a common table with one another, our forefathers in the Christian faith instituted what is known as “Spiritual Communion.” In this moment, we prepare ourselves as we would for the physical elements of communion, thinking about God’s gifts to us in the Body and Blood of Christ our Lord. Take a moment to pause, to recall that which you have received from God, to remember your sin, to ask forgiveness. (pause) Christ has given his body “for you,” Christ has “shed (His blood) for you for the forgiveness of your sin.” Where there is forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation. Recall God’s gifts to you in this moment. Let us pray:

Jesus, I believe that you are present in sacrament of Holy Communion. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you through the elements of the sacrament, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you, knowing you are already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you as you offer forgiveness, unity, and hope to me and all believers. In your holy name I pray, Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen

SENDING

Now may God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forever more. **Amen.**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW #338

Go in Peace, remember those who suffer! **Thanks be to God!**

Holy Week services will be posted as follows:

Maundy Thursday: April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday: April 10, 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday: April 12, 9:30 a.m.

Please remember to send your offering to the church in some form. Tyler and Chris have been working on a donation button for our social media pages. Please contact the office if you have questions about how to share your gifts. All payroll and utilities are still needing to be paid. Your generosity and support of the Church is greatly appreciate!

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah: Rolland Christenson, Har Shogren, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis.

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal

Denise

Suzi Gentine

Leon & Judy Burch

Matt Tobey

Bill Stephenson

Dawn

Daniels' friend

Pari Ford's mother

Paul's sister-in-law

Friends of Warren O. &

Ted K.

B. Holcombe

Joy Janis's brother

Sharon Hoffman's Daughter

Erin Erb

Stephani White

Karla Goewert

Orin Shogren

Danielle

VanDeVyvere

Bruce Butler

Krista Bahler

Betty Finney

Meghan Presley

Friend of Sherry Peterson

Betty Holcombe's daughter

Friend of Kirsten Bruce

Har's brother

Robbie Peterson's granddaughter

Mary Jo Roch

Betty Peterson's Niece

Sharon Hoffman's friend

John & Margaret Presley's daughter

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp

Ben Youngquist

Luke Hammontree

Betty Russin's grandson

S Hoffman's nephew

Daniel's grandson

Vicki Charboneau Elaine Eller's granddaughter

Jeremy Guy

T.J. Paulsen

Hensley's son-in-law

Barb Malm's child

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Daniel & Miranda Norland Randy/Gretchen's son & wife

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Please pray for all affected by Covid-19: Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. As well, we pray for all who are being economically negatively affected by the virus and it's social disruption.

