

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**PALM SUNDAY - A HOLY WEEK OF SACRIFICE AND ATONEMENT**  
Pastor Christian Magnell, Pastor John R. Hanson  
March 24, 2024, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janet Hanson, Musician

CALL TO WORSHIP (10:30 a.m.)

3 yr Old - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Sunday School

COMMON THREAD - *Holy Week - the challenge for us is what happened so very long ago. Palm Sunday is a time to tell of betrayal and death. Jesus leads us, and we may follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us. Setting aside all power, glory, and might, Jesus comes modeling humility and obedience for all of us. Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.*

THEME AND VERSE

**Almighty and everlasting God, you have sent your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross, that all of humanity should follow the example of his great humility. Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his resurrection.**

***Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever. Psalm 118:29***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      God is good.      **All the time.**

GOSPEL: John 12:12-19

*After the raising of Lazarus, Jesus became so popular that the crowds laid palm branches before him as he rode into Jerusalem. Palm branches were a national emblem of the Jews. It appears that Jesus was becoming a public hero who was expected to usher in a new Jewish age. Of course, this troubled the Pharisees who were dejected and about to give up in their attempts to silence Jesus. The disciples were caught up in the excitement.*

<sup>12</sup>The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>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!" <sup>14</sup>And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, <sup>15</sup>"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup>So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time. **God is good!**

HYMN

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

Green # 543

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of

**the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

God is preparing great things as we reflect this week. Let us receive God's grace.

**Have mercy on us, O Lord. We count ourselves as your disciples without a willingness to follow you. We may have a personal devotion in private places, or a quiet response among other believers, but when would we shout our blessing on your work with so many others to listen? We wait until the most testing of times to place ourselves in your hands and do not seek your instruction with each new morning. O Lord, forgive our sins.**

The Lord God helps us turn from rebelliousness to faithfulness and even to obedience that we should not claim a righteousness of our own but that we might have the same mind as Jesus Christ. In Christ's faithfulness we might place our trust and declare, "Here is our God."

**To the glory of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

WELCOME

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

"Parade!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious God, as we heard the gospel proclaimed at the gates of the city, give us grace to recognize your son, the king, and courage to be a part of your kingdom, even when it goes against the ways of the world, even when it leads us where we do not want to go. Empower us to be free from the temptation of alternatives, of power and of wealth, and of status. Embolden us to live lives of thanksgiving and praise! Amen.**

READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

*This story foretells the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. His triumph rests on humility, just as the king is seated upon the lowly donkey. He crushes his adversaries with peace. In yielding himself, he conquers all. Through the blood of his covenant, we are presented with true hope and are set free. This is accomplished peacefully with a word. The king will speak it*

*into existence. In the meanwhile, as “prisoners of hope,” we must keep returning to our stronghold, our fortress — the Lord.*

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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the  
blood of my covenant with you, I will set  
your prisoners free from the water-less pit.  
<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners  
of hope; today I declare that I will restore  
to you double.

READING: Philippians 2:5-11

*Imagine having the mind of Christ. The task is tough but the idea is simple enough. It begins with not thinking too highly of yourself. Next time you are in a committee meeting and someone across the table takes a shot at you, take it in stride. Think to yourself, “This is what Jesus also endured — and more.” Humble yourself. Take the heat and let the warmth in your face subside without returning fire.*

Have this mind among yourselves,  
which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who,  
though he was in the form of God, did not  
count equality with God a thing to be  
grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking  
the form of a servant being born in the  
likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in  
human form, he humbled himself by  
becoming obedient to the point of death,

even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has  
highly exalted him and bestowed on him  
the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so  
that at the name of Jesus every knee  
should bow, in heaven and on earth and  
under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue  
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the  
glory of God the Father.

HYMN

*“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”*

Green # 309

Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin;  
From selfish passions set me free and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.

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SERMON - *The calm before - within - after the storm.*

HYMN

*“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”*

Burgundy # 66

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;  
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Accept and bless these gifts which we offer in joyful response to your gracious gift of salvation. May these gifts and our lives bring witness to the redemption story revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We taste of your forgiveness, Lord God, your Word of life! We receive forgiveness and we are given new life. May we be strengthened in mind and spirit to witness your life-giving sacrifice. May we live to share the glory of your gracious redeeming love. Amen.**

### SENDING

**We gathered with the crowds crying Hosanna! If we were silent, the very creation itself would have called out. We have shared the hope for a world about to be changed, and then, through sacrifice and redemption, it changed. As the crowd's attention shifts from the Parade of Palms to the Cross of Christ, and as the world grows dark, we cannot lose hope. God is with us. God will be with us. We are not alone. And so we watch with the crowd...**

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### **“Listening for the Promise” Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24, 2024**

*“Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.” - Psalm 31:9*

Jesus knew long before he arrived in Jerusalem that it would be his last visit to the beloved city. He warned the disciples and the crowds that the Son of Man had to be lifted up, persecuted,

and killed. Jesus knew the time was coming when the world would turn away from him. I wonder how it felt, then, to arrive in Jerusalem to a cheering crowd. We describe the Palm Sunday parade as a triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but was it a triumph to Jesus? Did he embrace their praise? He knew that in just days, that same crowd would be shouting for his crucifixion.

Jesus loved his people. He wanted the best for them, but it must have been difficult even for him to accept the cross. There was so much left to do. There were still sick people to be healed and poor who needed encouragement. There were many who had not heard the promise of God's Kingdom. His disciples still did not understand. The donkey ride into Jerusalem was part of the plan but must have seemed premature. How could he leave them now? They weren't ready to continue on their own.

The psalmist knew the tug of war that goes on in the hearts of people struggling to be obedient to God's will. Even Jesus prayed that his Father might find another way. After all, how could death be the answer? Nevertheless, Jesus did not listen to the demands of the crowd. He did not save himself; he obeyed the will of his Father. God's promises could only be complete through death, the final enemy. The amazing grace of God was realized through the most incredible act of sacrifice: the beloved Son, the Priest-King, offered himself as the Lamb to be slain for the sake of God's people.

Jesus accepted the praise of the crowds on Palm Sunday, but just days later, he also accepted the anguish and loneliness of the garden and the cross. Through it all, he trusted in God. He willingly died on the cross to fulfill the promise of God's unfailing love for his people. We are delivered by his blood from the greatest enemy: death. By his grace, we are forgiven, and through him we have life in his Kingdom forever.