

Palm Sunday 2020

April 4, 2020 5:00 PM - Light of Christ Campus

Introduction to the day:

Today's worship, as always, begins with our brief order of confession and forgiveness. In the time that is now upon us, we are reminded that our Lord never grew tired of coming among those who were sinful. Our worship will bring us to the time and place when Jesus triumphantly entered the city streets of Jerusalem and people far and wide gathered to sing Hosanna to the Son of David, Hosanna in the Highest! Yet even as we join the refrain of our ancestors from old, we remember that these are the same voices that will call out "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" May our Lord be with us on the journey to which we are now committed.

INVOCATION

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,+ one God, Who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us.

A&C: Amen

P: God of grace, You have given us minds to know You, hearts to love You, and voices to sing Your praise. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may celebrate Your glory and worship You in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Now let's prayerfully prepare for worship as we listen to our prelude music.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(Public statement of our wrong doings followed by the promise that God forgives us. Authorized by Christ!)*

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord....*(Silence is kept for reflection.)* Most merciful God.

**A&C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen**

P: God, Who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

A&C: Amen

HYMN (*a song to begin advancing the theme of the day*)

532 (vs. 1,3,4)

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

A: Let us pray... 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.

C: Amen.

Zechariah 9:9-10

A reading from Zechariah

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 39

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;**

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to | my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street | they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;**

I am as useless as a | broken pot.

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is | all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to | take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.**

I have said, "You | are my God.

¹⁵My times are | in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine up- | on your servant;**

save me in your | steadfast love."

BLESSING OF THE PALMS AND TOWELS

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. 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 the towels in the hands of our sisters and brothers at home. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross and remain steadfast with Him through the time that is near. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Children's Message

Children's Anthem

Shout Hosanna! *Words and Music by Robert C. Evans*

Jumping up and down, jumping up and down,
Jumping up and down, shout hosanna! *Hosanna!*

Jumping up and down, jumping up and down,
Jumping up and down, shout hosanna! *Hosanna!*

Here comes Jesus riding on a donkey,
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the King!

Wave the branches of the trees before Him,
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the King!

Repeat the first two stanzas.

GOSPEL: *(Found in the New Testament, the Gospels provide first-hand accounts of the life of Jesus Christ)*

Matthew 21:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st Chapter beginning with the 1st verse.

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.

Congregation: Praise to You, O Christ.

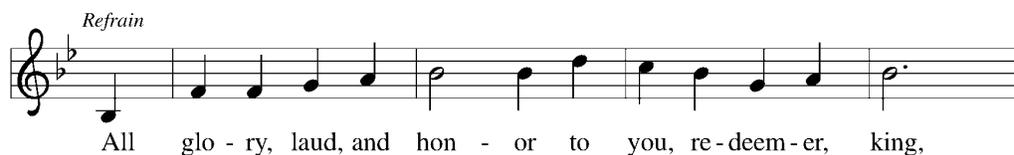
PROCESSION OF PALMS

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN #344

All Glory, Laud, and Honor



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

SERMON

Rev. Jerry Kulp

MUSICAL MEDITATION

APOSTLE'S CREED (*A summary of our core beliefs*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Turning our hearts to God Who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence*) God of mercy in this time of a pandemic, awaken Your church to new proclamations of Your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of Your redemption. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of mercy, quiet the earth. Protect vulnerable ecosystems, threatened habitats, and endangered species. Prosper the work of scientists, engineers, and researchers who find ways to restore creation to health and wholeness. Hear us, O God

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of mercy, drive away the fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who seek liberation for the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those all people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of mercy, send Your saving help to all who are suffering. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying. Bring peace to those who are offering medical assistance and research to meet the seemingly never- ending needs of this time. Tend to all who cry out for relief. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of mercy, we give You thanks and praise for allowing us to worship together as a community in this time. We especially thank You for the gift of companionship being shared by the UPG and St. John's Windish and for the technology that allows us to proclaim Your Word during this time Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of mercy, surround all those who tirelessly are working to keep Your people safe and protected from this pandemic; the first responders and all who work in the medical field, the scientists and people working on developing cures, the manufacturers who are attempting to provide us with the items that are necessary, the distribution people and markets which provide us with necessary resources. All these people Lord and all You see that are in need, offer a sense of peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We lift up our individual prayers to You (silence for reflection). Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of mercy, when we breathe our last, You raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth, let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Reveal Your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to Your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

This time will be reserved for any comments or questions from the gathered community.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: God, Who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, Who spreads His arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, Who draws ever near to us, +bless us and bring us to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace! Remember those in need!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE