

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020 9:30 AM

Our worship this morning focuses on two very different themes. We begin with the traditional Palm Sunday reading of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey as the people shouted “Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel!” What an exciting parade and celebration this must have been. By the end of the week though, the shouts would change to “Crucify Him!” The second theme of the service is the Passion of Christ as we hear a dramatic reading from the book of St. Matthew of the events that led to the crucifixion of Jesus.

Today we begin another Holy Week, but much different from what we have experienced in the past. Instead of gathering together in the Faith Chapel to process into the church, we are gathered in our homes looking at a screen. And yet, distance doesn’t separate us. Our omnipresent God unites us through His Word and by the power of the Spirit. We are one in Christ. One in our desire to worship Him. One in our desire to receive His mercy and grace. One in our desire to serve Him as faithful disciples. God bless us as once again we are reminded of the loving journey of our Savior to Jerusalem, the cross, and then the empty tomb.

Welcome

All Glory, Laud and Honor

***All glory, laud, and honor
to You, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.***

You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
Our King and Blessed One.

The company of angels
is praising You on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.

The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before You went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before You we present.

To You before Your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to You, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.

As You received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing,
O good and gracious King!

Pastor: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna to the Son of David.

Pastor: Let us pray. Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Gospel: John 12:12-19

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;

see, your King is coming,
seated on a donkey’s colt.”

¹⁶ At first His disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about Him and that these things had been done to Him.

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with Him when He called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that He had performed this sign, went out to meet Him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)

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

'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

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna in the highest.**

Children's Message

Readings

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

⁵The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.

⁶I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.

⁷Because the Sovereign LORD helps me,
I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!
Who is my accuser?

Let him confront me!
⁹It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me.
Who will condemn me?

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Epistle Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage;

⁷rather, He made Himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place
and gave Him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Introduction to the Passion Narrative

Holy Gospel: The Passion of our Lord According to St. Matthew 26:1-27:66

Please refer to separate handout for the Dramatic Narrative Gospel

Sermon

Apostles Creed

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 Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and 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.

Prayers

Please add your prayer requests to the live chat

Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace
Amen.*

Man of Sorrows

Man of sorrows Lamb of God
By His own betrayed
The sin of man and wrath of God
Has been on Jesus laid

Sent of heaven God's own Son
To purchase and redeem
And reconcile the very ones
Who nailed Him to that tree (*chorus*)

Silent as He stood accused
Beaten mocked and scorned
Bowing to the Father's will
He took a crown of thorns

Now my debt is paid
It is paid in full
By the precious blood
That my Jesus spilled
Now the curse of sin
Has no hold on me
Whom the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed (*chorus*)

***Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honor unto Thee***

See the stone is rolled away
Behold the empty tomb
Hallelujah God be praised
He's risen from the grave (*chorus*)

For Reflection and Discussion

1. When was a time when you experienced a celebration that didn't go as planned, but still turned out to be a memorable event?
2. The crowd worshiped Jesus with palm branches and shouting. What are some of the items that we use in church to worship the Lord? What items we can use in our home to worship the Lord?
3. What are some of the things you did before Covid-19 that you can't do anymore? What are some of the things that you are doing now that you didn't do before Covid-19? Which new activities do you want to continue doing?
4. Spend some time this week reading the Passion Narrative in the four Gospels. (Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, John 18-19) What differences do you notice?
5. What will you do in your home this week to make worship of the Lord a priority during Holy Week?

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

(You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

Acknowledgements

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Pray for the Family of St. John's

Arvin, Tyler, Jeron, Jakob, & Bryson Chaudhary
Lorraine, David & Paul Ewing
Clareen King
Jose, Kelsey, Jax & Logan Rodriguez
Gail Valeskie
Jennifer and Clara Bunker
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