

Covenant Lutheran Church
March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday

GATHERING (PROCESSIONAL)

(We begin worship outside the front doors.)

Processional Reading: Zechariah 9:9-13

⁹Rejoice 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.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

¹³For I have bent Judah as my bow;

I have made Ephraim its arrow.

I will arouse your sons, O Zion,

against your sons, O Greece,

and wield you like a warrior's sword.

¹⁴Then the Lord will appear over them,

and his arrow go forth like lightning;

the Lord God will sound the trumpet

and march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.

¹⁵The Lord of hosts will protect them,

and they shall consume and conquer the slingers;

they shall drink their blood like wine

and be full like a bowl,
drenched like the corners of the altar.
¹⁶ On that day the Lord their God will save them,
for they are the flock of his people,
for like the jewels of a crown
they shall shine on his land.
¹⁷ For what goodness and beauty are his!
Grain shall make the young men flourish,
and new wine the young women.

Processional Hymn: All Glory, Laud and Honor
ELW #344, Vs. 1-5 *Bill Broddle, Trumpet*

Refrain: *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.

Refrain
(See hymnal or screens for remaining verses.)

Call to Confession

The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence. After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, "the disciples did not understand what was happening." A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God's presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop—or we're standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing. That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast, and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood. So let us pray, for we don't want to miss our chance to sing:

Prayer of Confession
Holy God,

**we want to run into the streets and sing your praise!
We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel.
However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall.
Too often we stay quiet.
Too often we let others carry the song.
Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade
but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines.
Show us which songs are ours to sing.
Show us which parades are ours to lead,
and then give us the courage and conviction to do both.
With hope and honesty we pray,
Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—whether you are waving palm branches through the streets
or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—
Jesus marched for you.
Jesus' love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you.
You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that.
So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones:
We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday.
Jesus Christ loves you today.
And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow.
You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing.
Go out trusting these words.
Amen.

Opening Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! ELW #413

Prayer of the Day

God of grace,
your Word is like a song.
It is the melody that we long to sing,
the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads.
So as we return to scripture once more,

we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song.
Allow us to hear the truth in between the words.
Allow the cries of the crowd's "hosannas" to feel like our own.
With open hearts and open ears we pray,
Amen.

Please Be Seated

THE WORD

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

(Congregational Responses in Bold – chanted with Psalm tone)

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.
- ²Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."
- ¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."
- ²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.
- ²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- ²⁵Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!
- ²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- ²⁷The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.
- ²⁸You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹Give thanks to the LORD, ¹for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

Please Stand

Hymn of the Day: At the Name of Jesus
ELW #416

Gospel: John 12:12-19

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord —
the King of Israel!"

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

¹⁵"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please Be Seated

The Message

Moment of Silence for Reflection

Please Stand

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith with confidence in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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 the People: Assisting Minister

Responses:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

Time of Response

Offertory Song: Ride On, King Jesus

Covenant Praise Band

Offering Prayer: Assisting Minister

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.

Amen.

Please Stand

The Lord's Prayer**SENDING****Sending Song: Precious Lord****Blessing**

Beloved wanderer,
as you leave this place,
may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.
May you look for God in every face.
May you find the courage to get out of the boat,
to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.
And when the world falls apart,
may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."
You are called.
You are blessed.
In both your ups and your downs,
you always belong to God.
Go now in peace ✝
Go trusting that good news.
Amen.

Postlude

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