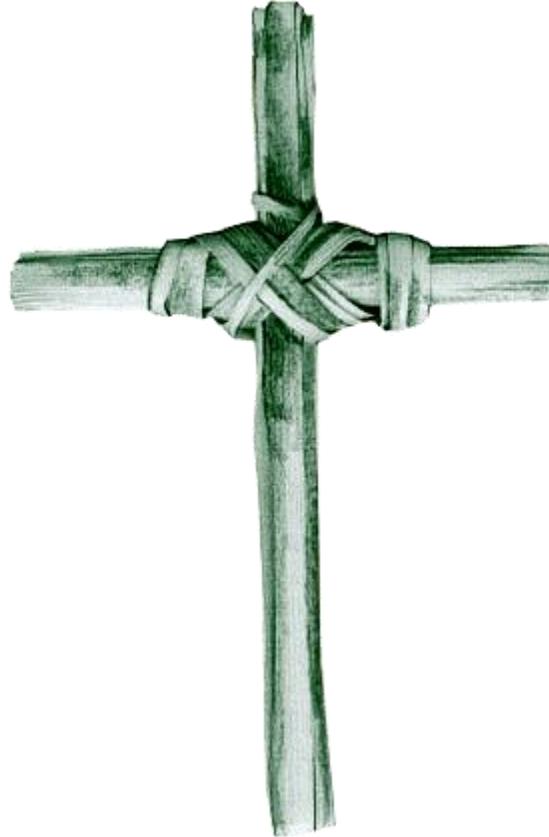


Palm Sunday 2020
April 5, 2020



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Rev Stephen H. Mentz, pastor

+ Palm Sunday +

P Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
C and also with you.

P Hosanna to the Son of David.

C Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.

P With Christians throughout the world, who on this Palm Sunday are confined to their homes, with all the saints and martyrs and the entire host of heaven, we gather in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to call to mind, and to express in word and action, the central message of the Easter mystery: Our Lord's Passover from death to life. Christ entered in triumph into the Holy City to complete His work as Messiah: To suffer, to die, and to rise to new life. Today we commit ourselves to walk the way of the cross, so that, sharing His sufferings, we may be united with Him in His risen life.

The Gospel Reading for Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" 11 And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

P This is the Gospel of Christ.

C Praise to Christ our Lord.

P Behold the Lamb of God!

C Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

P Let us pray.

C Sovereign God, accept the thanks we offer You this day for the events of that first Palm Sunday and Holy Week whereby You set us free from sin, death and fear. Free us from the despair and gloom we feel today and allow each of us to see You as the victorious King of Kings and Lord of lords. This we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9,10

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. 10 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.

All Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 8:8-12

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹²For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Behold the Lamb of God!

C Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Message

Palm Sunday Creed

P Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

C Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. (Philippian 2:5-11).

Prayer of the Church

P Jesus willingly submitted to suffer in our place. Let us pray to God our Father, and place in His hands the suffering of the world.

P We pray for the Church, that we may bear our cross and follow Jesus.

C Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

P We pray for those who betray their friends as Peter betrayed our Lord. Teach us to be sorry for our sins, and forgive us for Jesus' sake.

C Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

P We pray for prisoners and criminals like Barabbas. May they find true freedom by changing the way they live.

C Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

P We pray for people in government, like Pilate. May they be responsible and serve truth and justice.

C Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

P We pray for those who are dying, like the thieves who died with Jesus. May they die with Jesus by their side, and be received into Your kingdom.

C Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

P We pray for parents like Mary who have lost a child. May they bear their suffering and know the comfort of Your love.

C Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

P Lord, You are the Creator, with power over the creation, so we pray for this Pandemic to be destroyed. Spirit of God, You are the Comforter, so please comfort our troubled souls.

C Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

P We pray for the scientists who are working feverishly on vaccines. Lord, we thank You for gifting them with knowledge and wisdom we don't have. We pray for their endurance, for breakthroughs, and for resources to fight the virus.

C Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

P We pray earnestly for the heroic medical doctors, nurses, and health care professionals, first responders, who are putting their lives on the line for their neighbors and now dying. May you give them strength and physical immunity during this time, so they can help push back against this ravaging virus.

C Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

P Dear God, move in the hearts of our public officials. We earnestly beseech You on behalf of our president, Congress, governors, mayors, and local officials that You give them the courage to put politics aside and do what is necessary to defeat the enemy before us.

C Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

P Father, may the suffering and death of Jesus lighten the burdens of all those who suffer. Lead us in the way of the cross, so that we may rise to life in His glory, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

The Arrival of the Passion of Our Lord

Prayer

C Lord Jesus Christ, You humbled Yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow You and to proclaim You as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

P The Lord be with you

C And with your spirit.

Gospel

Matthew 26:1-5

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, 2 “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, 4 and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. 5 But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

P Christ for our sakes became obedient unto death.

C **Even the death of the cross.**

P By His own blood He entered once into the Holy Place,

C **Having obtained eternal redemption for us.**

P O Savior of the world, by Your cross and passion You have redeemed us,

C **Save us and help us, we humbly pray, O Lord.**

P Let us pray: Merciful God, as we enter into this Holy Week, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only praise Him with our lips, but may follow Him in the way of the cross.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace, remembering all that Jesus endured for your sake – and may God bless you and keep you safe in His knowledge and His love, both now and forevermore.

C **Amen.**

Postlude

Hosanna in the Highest!