

Augustana

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2021

GATHERING

The instructions for Palm Sunday begin with “the assembly gathers ... outside the usual worship space.” This year, once again, we are taking that to the limits as we gather wherever we are. And the procession happens where we are

The people came to see Jesus. To see God in their midst. Where do we find God in our midst? Let us in the coming week go looking for God in our midst. Wave a branch or a stray dandelion and celebrate wherever it is that we see Christ in our midst.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord:

ALL: **Hosanna in the highest** (*repeated three times*)

GOSPEL – Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”’ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

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. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to Christ's death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. AMEN.

PALM PROCESSION ACCLAMATION - Choir

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, your love finds full expression in the gift of Jesus Christ your Son, who willingly met betrayal and death to set us free from sin.

Give us courage to live obediently in these days until we greet the glory of our risen Saviour. **Amen.**

READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,
 and I was not rebellious,
 I did not turn backwards.
 I gave my back to those who struck me,
 and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
 I did not hide my face
 from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;
 therefore I have not been disgraced;
 therefore I have set my face like flint,
 and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
 he who vindicates me is near.
 Who will contend with me?
 Let us stand up together.
 Who are my adversaries?
 Let them confront me.
 It is the Lord God who helps me;
 who will declare me guilty?

MEDITATION

On this Sunday we move from great thanksgiving to great sadness

- In this past year we ourselves have circled round between hope and dread: moving back and forth as the numbers increase or decrease When vaccines were approved As variant virus's took hold.
- Perhaps, better than any other year we now understand the drastic movement from praise and adulation to suffering and death.
- And, fittingly, we know that Jesus has walked that path ahead of us and along beside us.
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PASSION GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK

READER ONE

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, 'Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.'

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, [*tambourine shake begins*] went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them.

When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus. [*tambourine stops*]

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, at evening Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, the one who is eating with me."

They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?"

Jesus said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born [*cymbal rim*]

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

Jesus said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.” Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” But Peter said vehemently, *[tambourine trill]* “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same. *[tambourine stops]*

HYMN “Go to Dark Gethsemane” # 347 verse one
 Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter’s pow’r,
 your Redeemer’s conflict see.
 Watch with him one bitter hour; turn not from his griefs away;
 learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

READER TWO

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; *[hand drum throughout this section; quarter and two eights]* remain here, and keep awake.’ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, ‘Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.’ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, ‘Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? *[drum crescendo begins]* Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.’ *[drum stops]*

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. [*cymbal rim*] Then Jesus said to them, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.' [*tambourine trill*]

HYMN "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" # 351 ELW verse 1

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
 Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
 O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
 Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

READER 3

All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands." ' But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But he was silent and did not answer.

Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, 'I am; and [*soft cymbal roll begins and slowly crescendos during the entire section*]

“you will see the Son of Man
seated at the right hand of the Power”,
and “coming with the clouds of heaven.” ’

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, [*cymbal slow, dramatic crescendo*]
‘Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your
decision?’ All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on
him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, ‘Prophecy!’ The guards also
took him over and beat him. [*crescendo leads to cymbal crash*]

HYMN “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” # 351 ELW verse 3

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
For this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

READER 1

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, ‘You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.’ But he denied it, saying, ‘I do not know or understand what you are talking about.’ And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, ‘This man is one of them.’ But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, ‘Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.’ But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, ‘I do not know this man you are talking about.’ At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.’ And he broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ He answered him, ‘You say so.’ Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, ‘Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.’ But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

CHOIR "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"

READER 2

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; [*tambourine trill*] and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. [*tambourine stops*]

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.'

And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come

down from the cross!’ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, ‘He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.’ Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. [*cymbal rim*]

CHOIR “Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?”

READER 3

When it was noon, [*slow hand drum toll in this section*] darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ [*drum crescendo*] When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, ‘Listen, he is calling for Elijah.’ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.’ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. [*drum stops*] **10 seconds of silence** [*out of the silence a cymbal roll crescendos to a very loud crash*]

[*After the crash*] And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, ‘Truly this man was God’s Son!’

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHOIR “Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?”

Prayers of Intercession, Passion/ Palm Sunday - Pastor Marilyn

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words “hear us, O God” and you can make the prayer your own by responding **“Your mercy is great”**.

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified.

Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth.

Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need.

Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Grant safety to refugees especially: the Iqbal and Alhamad/Wahid families. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Help us to dream of and work towards a time when all people are vaccinated. And instead of returning to the old “normal,” help us to work towards a new and just normal. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Grant healing to: Angie, Earl, Elsie, Audrey, Orville and Carol, Bruce, Marie, Gloria, Anna Marie, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Shelby, Alice, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Mildred, Minnie, Louise, Lyssa, and all those we

name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*(a pause to offer time to name others)*.

Give them courage and peace in the face of illness and grief. Hear us, O God . . .
Your mercy is great.

Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief.

Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Be with newly arrived seminary student Tewodros Gebrehiwot and his family: wife Kelem, daughter Iyesusawit and son Applos as they settle into life in Saskatoon. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Gives us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead.

Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. AMEN.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. AMEN.

GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD!
Thanks be to God

Postlude
Stripping of the altar

THANK YOU

Worship Assistants: Noreen Donald, Mik Bickis, Bryan Tastad

Musicians: Glenn Ens (percussion), Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy Choir

Technicians: Bryan Tastad