

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, AMHERST, OHIO

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020



IN TODAY'S WORSHIP: Unfortunately it is not uncommon to life to go through a time where you might ask the question "'Where are you God?' You might even feel like God purposely turned his back on you, and feelings of anger and doubt begin to well up inside, instead of feelings of love or respect for God. Yet, faith is not the absence of doubt or anger. In spite of our feelings of being abandoned by God, we know the truth that Jesus was forsaken on the cross by the Father so that we never will be. His love and promise stand certain even in our crisis of faith.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Almighty and ever-living God, in your tender love for the human race You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross,

giving us the example of His great humility. Father, may I follow in the way of Jesus, even if brings suffering to me, and may I, in a small way, show His love as I serve others in humility. Amen.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

RINGING THE CALL TO WORSHIP

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PALM SUNDAY STORY

JOHN 12:12-19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

Jesus' triumphal entry.

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, 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 about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The

reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

LSB 442

**1 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 Blessèd One.**

**2 All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
The company of angels
Is praising You on high,
And we with all creation
In chorus make reply.**

**3 All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.**

**The multitude of pilgrims
With palms before You went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before You we present.**

**4 All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
To You before Your passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To You, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.**

**5 All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
As You received their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing,
Our good and gracious King.**

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

SONG *"Forever"* <https://www.worshiplyricvideos.com/videos-set-2>

INVOCATION (Spoken Responsively)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord, you rode on.

You rode over the cloaks and under the branches,

You rode through the shouts and past the praises,

Receiving the praise that you deserved, but You did not confuse
receiving praise for your purpose in coming.

O Lord, you rode on.

You rode towards the controversy, the curses and the cross,

You rode to receive the beatings and the whipping You didn't deserve,
to give us a reward that we couldn't earn.

O Lord, you rode on.

You rode through the tomb and the grave,

Ascending to a throne that will never decay,

A priesthood that will never pass away,

A life of love that will always remain,

And hearing us even now as we pray.

O Lord, you rode on.

We remember the journey You took long ago as we commit ourselves
today to walking in the same way.

Give us the strength, hope, and joy we need as we follow.

In your name we pray, Amen.

CONFESSING OUR SINFULNESS TO GOD

P: Friend, in many ways we are like the cheering crowd on the first Palm Sunday. We are quick to praise Jesus when it is popular, or when it appears He will give us what we want, making our lives easier. When we see, however, that Christ came to suffer and calls us to follow, we are unwilling to give of ourselves. We, too, think in worldly ways, and have set our hearts on worldly goals. And so come now, sincerely and humbly confessing your sin to Jesus, your Savior, who rode into Jerusalem, to the cross, to give His life for you.

(A time of silence for personal reflection and confession)

P: Most merciful God,

C: I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

P: Friend in Christ, on Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem to walk the most difficult road to the cross, to give His life for you. In your Baptism, you received the sign of the cross, God's assurance of His forgiveness in His Son, so receive once more this sign ✠

assuring you today that Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

✘ WORD ✘

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

PSALM 118: 19-26A

The Psalm writer rejoices as he foretells Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and Christ's rejection.

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

²³This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

R This is the Word of the Lord

HYMN*"Ride On, Ride On, In Majesty"*

LSB 441

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.**

- 2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.**

- 3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.**

- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on His sapphire throne
Awaits His own anointed Son.**

- 5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.**

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SERMON*"CRISIS OF FAITH"***PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

*There is much that is loveless about me –
The way I'm so quick to criticize;
my intolerance and lack of acceptance;
my need to be right, even when I'm wrong.
For me, with all my shortcomings, He takes frail flesh and dies.*

*When I wonder who I am again,
when I lose my identity in a rush of busyness
and a crowd of those who think they know me, but do not,
I will remember:
Who am I?
I am one for whom He died, and that has made all the difference.*

**He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!**

LSB 430, vs.2

*From way up there to way down here – “from His blest throne” –
It is a long way to come.
He spent it all – everything He had
As One divine sent from heaven.
He spent it all
From way up there to way down here
Until there was nothing left.
I had the need.
He paid the price.
The One from heaven laid down His life for His friend.
I am that friend,*

And that has made all the difference.

**Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King,
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.**

LSB 430, vs.3

*From "Hosanna!" to "Crucify!"
How sweet the praises; how deadly the turnabout.
I learn from His experience that today's hurrahs give way
To another day's jeers.
He lived among them, walked and talked with them.
He lifted their children to His knee
And taught them the things of the kingdom.
Yet they did not know Him.
I wonder if I know Him as He is, in all His resplendent glory.
But He knows me,
And that has made all the difference.*

**They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Live they slay,
Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.**

LSB 430, vs.5

*In all the world have you ever seen such injustice as this?
They choose a murderer, Barabbas.*

He goes free!

And Jesus, they kill!

*He promised them the kingdom, and they promise Him a cross.
He was innocent.*

*He never once sinned; yet they hang Him high, and He dies.
And some who see Him dying, see Him through eyes once blind
but made to see by none other than the One they crucify.
It was for me – and for you – that He took such insult and abuse.*

*We can see it now with eyes, He, too, has given us to see.
And that has made all the difference.*

**Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!**

LSB 430, vs.7

*We want to be where love is,
And the Gospel story gives us such a place.
Love is where the Savior dies.
Love is where we stand at Calvary
And watch His grief so deep
That we want to cry with all who cry for Him and ever have.
This is the One whose living and dying and rising
Have filled my days with praise.
As a little child once said,
"That's Jesus they're killing! That's Jesus, my friend."*

*This is my friend, who dies,
And that has made all the difference.*

PRAYER

P: Jesus, our Friend, May we have the grace to follow You, and give to You our very lives. For in giving away our lives, we find them, and in dying we live. Amen.

DISMISSAL

(The services of Holy Week form a single unit of worship and devotion. Therefore, our worship concludes without the Benediction, until we celebrate the peace and joy of the Easter Resurrection.)

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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