



Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

*You are invited to light a candle
as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*



Together, we gather with God the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.
Together, we gather on our shared journey through the wilderness and death,
for the sake of Life.

Greeting

Blessed is the one who enters our wilderness for the sake of life.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Opening Song

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Red ELW 344 vv.1, 3

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***

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

Confession and Forgiveness

In this holy season of Lent, we are mindful that we are tempted in our wilderness and on our own, our only destination is death. In our wilderness we choose trails of deceit, self-centeredness and blindness to our neighbor in need. We confess our sin that leads us away and separates us from God and one another...

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever.

Amen.

Christ journeys with us through the wilderness and death and with Christ we are forgiven. Sisters and Brothers in Christ, rise together in our wilderness, forgiven and freed for the life we know in Christ. Freed to proclaim this Good News to others in the wilderness, for the sake of Life. And all God's children say, **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The 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 awakens—
awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I 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.

⁷The 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;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message

As we enter into Holy Week, you are invited to create in your home, a sacred space. This is a space that will remind you that Jesus enters our wilderness and journeys with us for the sake of life. This sacred space could be adorned with images and items that remind us that the God of life enters our journey with us. Keep it up throughout the week maybe even add to it daily. We would love to see images of your sacred spaces. Send your images to the pastors and we will find ways to share them as glimpses of sacred space that is Holy Shepherd.

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

Sung before & after all prayers

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing God's Peace

The peace of God be with you always. **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

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

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world.

Blessing

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the time we enter this sacred time of Holy Week. May the Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✠ bless you, unbind you, and join you in love and peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Prepare the Royal Highway

Red ELW 264 vv.1,2,4

**Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

**God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

**His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

Sending

In the sacred space of your home:
Be at peace. Rest in the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**