

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church March 28, 2021 Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

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## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

## ACCLAMATION

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

# PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: John 12:12-16

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>12</sup>[Five days before the Passover] the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.<sup>13</sup>So 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!"

<sup>14</sup>Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

<sup>15</sup>"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,

sitting on a donkey's colt!"

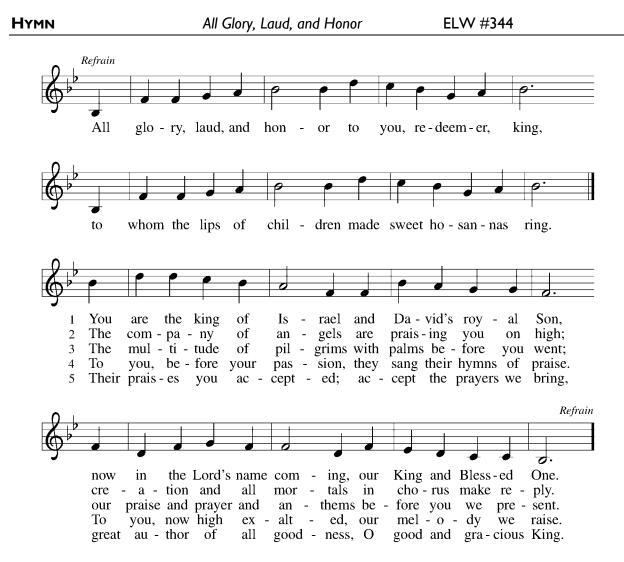
<sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

# BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. A brief silence is kept. 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 and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his 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.** 



Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

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

## **G**REETING AND **P**RAYER OF THE **D**AY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Amen.

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup> 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. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
l did not turn backward.
<sup>6</sup> 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.
<ul> <li><sup>7</sup>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;</li> <li><sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.</li> <li>Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.</li> <li>Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.</li> <li><sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?</li> </ul>

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

## PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 31:9-16

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I | am in trouble;

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

<sup>10</sup>For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;

#### my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.

"I 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.

<sup>12</sup>Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;

## I am as useless as a | broken pot. REFRAIN

<sup>13</sup>For 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.

<sup>14</sup>But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O Lord.

I have said, "You | are my God.

<sup>15</sup>My times are | in your hand;

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

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine up- | on your servant;

save me in your | steadfast love." REFRAIN

## SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

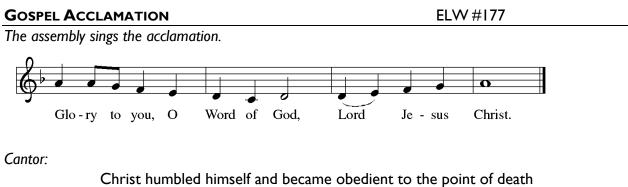
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 



---even death | on a cross.\* Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above | ev'ry name.

(Philippians 2:8-9)

# THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MARK (Mark 14:1--15:47)

SERMON

Pastor Steve Springer



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With cries of hosanna we pray for the church, the world, and people in need.

Sovereign God, may your name be celebrated in all generations. Keep your church strong as it tries to faithfully fulfill your purpose of bringing the Good News to the world. Where it is attacked because of prejudice or opposition, comfort its people and renew their trust in you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We take refuge in you, O Lord, as we continue to endure the separation and isolation of the past year. Keep us mindful of your will as we hope for and see a lifting of restrictions. Bring us together in responsible and safe ways as we acknowledge that our times are in your hands. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Almighty God, you love righteousness and hate wickedness, yet our world is gripped by the power of sin. We are saddened to see oppression, racial violence, persecution and terrorism in the world and our own country. Restrain the evil that promotes violence and death; and give leaders the wisdom to deal with the complex problems of society. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

God our Father, you show love to the loveless, and you offer mercy, healing, strength and pardon. Answer the call of the homeless, the hungry, the helpless and the dying. Bring healing to the sick and freedom to the oppressed. Sustain the weary, and give new strength to those in recovery. Bless our family and friends, and the whole Dove community, that we may be well and whole in your loving kindness.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands we commit our spirits. Sustain us in faithfulness to your will and your ways, that we with saints before us may triumphantly enter into your glory. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

MEDITATION

Members of the Dove of Peace Chancel Choir

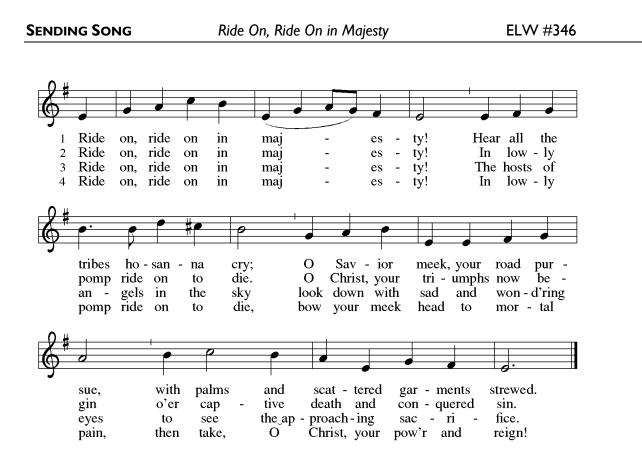
O Saviour of the World Arthur Somervell (1863-1937)

A student of Charles Stanford, English composer Arthur Somervell was a professor at the Royal College of Music. Although he is mostly known for his art songs, today's anthem is an excellent example of his sacred music. The text is the Antiphon at the Visitation of the Sick from the Book of Common Prayer.

> O Saviour of the world, Who by the Cross and precious blood hast redeemed us, Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee. 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.



Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt. Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912–1993 Music © 1941 by The H.W. Gray Co. Inc. Copyright renewed. All rights reserved.

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Adagio for Strings (arranged for Organ by William Strickland), Op. 11 Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Samuel Barber was one of the most celebrated American composers of the 20th century. His Adagio for Strings, arguably his most famous composition, is Barber's own arrangement of the second movement of his string quartet, finished in 1936. The orchestral arrangement was premiered to great acclaim by Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Symphony Orchestra. A New York organist named William Strickland heard Toscanini's recording and arranged the work for pipe organ. Barber was initially quite lukewarm to the organ arrangement, but as the piece became more famous, additional organ arrangements were proposed to the Schirmer publishing house, and Barber gave Strickland's arrangement his blessing. Barber himself arranged the piece for chorus in 1967, setting to the Agnus Dei text from the Mass. The mournful nature of the piece is both well suited to this text, focusing on the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and to our celebration of the Lord's passion on Palm Sunday. Music writer Thomas Larson observed that the piece "evokes a deep sadness in those who hear it."

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. Thanks be to God.

Dianne Huston, Assisting Minister Chris Alexander, Lector Eric Holtan, Cantor and Director of Choirs Kevin Seal, Organ