



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!

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Hosanna in the highest!

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: John 12:12-16

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

¹⁵“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, 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 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.

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re-deem-er, king,




to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

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!

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

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 wakens— wakens 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?

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.



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

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. REFRAIN**

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 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.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #177

The assembly sings the acclamation.



Cantor:

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death
—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



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

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.

SENDING SONG*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*

ELW #346



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the
 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring
 pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
 gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.

Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912–1993

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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