

April 5, 2020

10:00 am

Palm Sunday

This is a day of rapid turn arounds. The stories we read today take us from a mass protest in the city of Jerusalem on Sunday as Jesus rides into the city to cheers, to an intimate meal with friends. By Friday, the earth will be shaken as Jesus is arrested and killed by the state. Thus begins our Holy Week with all of its emotions. Joys. Alleluias. Trust. Mistrust. Faith. Uncertainty. Prayers. Denial. Overwhelming grief. In this urban wilderness, we prepare ourselves for yet another unexpected turn around on Easter morning.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome and Life of the Community (Announcements)

Opening Song

The Palm Parade—Matthew 21:1-11, CEB

ONE: When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gave two disciples a task. He said to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter, you will find a donkey tied up and a colt with it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that their master needs them.” He sent them off right away.

TWO: Now this happened to fulfill what the prophet said, *Say to Daughter Zion, “Look, your king is coming to you, humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt the donkey’s offspring.”* The disciples went and did just as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their clothes on them. Then he sat on them.

ONE: Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted,

All at home who have palms, ribbons, or scarves – WAVE them as you read...

ALL: “*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*”

TWO: And when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. “Who is this?” they asked.

ALL: The crowds answered, “It’s the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Prayer of Confession¹

Gracious God, on Sunday the city of Jerusalem cheered for you. They laid down coats and palms for you. They shouted “Hosanna!” and called you king. But on Friday they abandoned you. On Friday they yelled “Crucify him!” On Friday, you were in the wilderness alone. God, we want to be Palm Sunday Christians, but we know all too well that we also are the Good Friday crowd. So today we ask for forgiveness. Forgive us for the moments when we deny you and your message of love. Forgive us for preventing the spread of the gospel. Forgive us our sins. Amen.

Words of Assurance (based on Psalm 118)

Pastor Kris

Hymn #213

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

verses 1 & 2

“Hosanna, loud hosanna,” the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:
“Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we’ll rejoice!”

HEARING THE WORD

The Dinner Conversation—

Matthew 26:14-25, CEB

ONE: ... one of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I turn Jesus over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on he was looking for an opportunity to turn him in.

TWO: On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?” He replied, “Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, ‘The teacher says, “My time is near.

¹ Adapted from sarah are, sanctifiedart.org

I'm going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house." The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them. They prepared the Passover.

ONE: That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. ²¹ As they were eating he said, "I assure you that one of you will betray me." Deeply saddened, each one said to him, "I'm not the one, am I, Lord?" He replied, "The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born." Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, "It's not me, is it, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You said it."

Special Music

Eating with Jesus—

Matthew 26:26-30

TWO: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body." He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. I tell you, I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father's kingdom." Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

Time With Children

Amanda Bosky

Reflection

Wilderness: A Place We've Been

Pastor Kris

SHARING OUR LIVES

Call to Prayer #11

Bring Many Names

verse 6

**Great, living God, never fully known,
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, ever-lasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!**

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Jesus

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into**

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SHARING A MEAL²

As we worship digitally, you are invited to gather elements for communion from your home. Bread, homemade or purchased, an English muffin, a donut can become a sacrament. A cup of water or tea can become a remembrance of God's redeeming love. All are welcome at this meal.

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

Pastor Kris: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is scattered, we are one in Christ. In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

ALL: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your child shelters in place, that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

Words of Remembering

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Pastor Kris: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

ALL: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Pastor Kris: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

ALL: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Communion Song

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even

² Adapted from Taribassi, Maren. "Communion for Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020." Gifts in Open Hands, March 26, 2020. <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2020/03/26/communion-for-palm-sunday-april-5-2020/>.

in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

All at home who have palms, ribbons, or scarves – WAVE them as you sing!

Song for Going Out #216 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* verses 1 & 3

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosanna ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.**

**As you received their praises, receive our prayers this day,
Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway,
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

Benediction

Postlude