



Palm Sunday — April 5, 2020

Prelude

Palm Sunday Litany: Matthew 21:1-11

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

ALL: **Hosanna in the highest!**

Leader: When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,

Reader 1: “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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this:

Reader 2: “The Lord needs them.”

Reader 1: “And he will send them immediately.”

Leader: This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

Reader 2: “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.”

Leader: The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Reader 1: The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

ALL: **“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

Leader: When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking,

Reader 2: “Who is this?” The crowds were saying,

ALL: **“This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #344 – “All Glory Laud and Honor”

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

2 The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

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

4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

5 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

L: Let us pray. Everlasting God,

C: **In your endless love for the human race you sent Jesus to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. 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.**

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

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.

L: The word of the Lord **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Psalm 31 (read responsively):

L: Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

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

L: 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.

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

L: 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.

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

L: My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

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

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 27th chapter. C: **Glory, to you O Lord.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 27:31b-54

^{31b}Then [the soldiers] led [Jesus] away to crucify him. ³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" ⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

L: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #353 – "Were You There"

Text: African American spiritual

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Prayers of Intercession: L: Lord in your mercy C: **Hear our prayer.**

The 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.**

Blessing

Dismissal: L: Go in peace and love. Serve the Lord! C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANK YOU for joining us online for worship this morning!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** and a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation—welcoming all people, including LGBTQ individuals.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: We are not holding onsite worship at Temple Beth El Synagogue until further notice. Services will continue online on Sundays at 10 am via Facebook at www.facebook.com/stmarkslutheranfargo.

OFFERINGS: Please continue to send in your offerings as you are able. Our address is: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 417 Main Avenue, Ste #401, Fargo, ND 58103. You can also donate online on our website at: www.stmarkslutheranfargo.com/donate.html. You can do a one-time gift or register for monthly deductions via your credit card or bank account.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE INVITED for the sick: Jim Jordan (Charlie's brother), Matuor Dot Alier and family, Patti Pranke (Alpha's sister), Jerry Jacobson (Mel's brother), Kermit Jensen, Leah Martell Torkelson, Amanda Vivier and family, Chris Maki, Dona Jordan, Viola Ware, Brad Graber, Avis Twamley, and Karla Ware.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: Elna Solvang, Susan Stout-Parkos, David Twamley, and Joan Winkler.
Fargo Conference Prayer: Horace Lutheran Church, Horace, ND: Pastor Tessa Moon Leiseth, Interim.

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY is today! Consider sending a check this month (instead of collecting items) to the Emergency Food Pantry, PO Box 2821, Fargo, ND 58108.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY continues Wednesday, April 8, **online**. We are using an online meeting app called "Zoom." Pastor Joe and Tammy Lanaghan are the leaders.

GOOD FRIDAY: Our Good Friday service will be offered on **Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m.** online via our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/stmarkslutheranfargo.

CANCELLATIONS:

- **April 8 – Worship at Churches United (Micah's Mission)**
- **April 10 - Good Friday Joint Service with downtown churches**
- **April 26 – Temple Beth El's "Taste of Jewish Tradition"**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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