

The Mission of Zion Lutheran Church is: To Make Jesus Known To All In Our Words and Actions

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

Gathering

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

C: Hosanna in the highest!

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P: We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the city in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and King by those who spread garments and branches along his way. As we gather in our homes and without palm branches this year, help us always to welcome our Lord into our hearts. 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.

C: Amen.

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

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.

Psalm: Psalm 118:19-29

We pray the psalm in unison.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**
²⁰**“This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”**
²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**
²²**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**
²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**
²⁴**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
²⁵**Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**
²⁶**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.**
²⁷**The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**
²⁸**You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.**
²⁹**Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.**

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The 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!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Apostles' Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: 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 Intercession

P: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

You are invited to respond:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

Sending and Benediction

P: In his baptism, our Lord Jesus began a ministry that would reveal his wondrous love to the world. As we now enter Holy Week and meditate on the salvation of the world brought through his sufferings, death, burial and resurrection, let us pray:

C: 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.

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Proclaim the hope that is in Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

+ Prayer Requests +

- *For those in need of healing: Ann Blasing, Barry Jacques, Tim Anderson, Taylor Antony, Sadie and Elsie Sorensen, Tiana Iverson, John Greenough, Jan Barnick (daughter-in-law of Dorothy Barnick), Lonnie Honstad, Jeff Dunker, Cole Barden, Erin Visker, Donald Schmidt, Maddie Teigen, and Jed Visker;*
- *For those who are deployed: Evan Masters (brother of Chelsea Copeland).*
- *For physicians, nurses, hospital staff and home health aides as they care for those infected with coronavirus. May God grant them wisdom and stamina, and surround them with compassion and support as they work long hours away from family to save others.*

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, April 5	Service of the Word on Facebook	9:00 am
	Music from Sheldon Meyer on Facebook	9:30 am
	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	10:00 am
Monday, April 6	Bible Study on Zoom	11:00 am
Thursday, April 7	Maundy Thursday Service on Facebook	6:45 pm
Friday, April 8	Good Friday Service on Facebook	6:45 pm
Sunday, April 12 (Easter Sunday)	Service of the Word on Facebook	9:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Life during COVID-19 “Stay at Home” and Social Distancing Precautions:

- **In-Person worship services and activities continue to be suspended through April 30.** Worship services will be streamed via Facebook so that we can gather as a virtual community for prayer, reflection, and praise. Resources for prayer at home during Holy Week were also recently mailed to all Zion households.
- **News and updates** are being shared primarily through the church website and Facebook and, when appropriate, by mail.
- **The Church Office will be closed to visitors through April 30.** Pastor Andrea and Mary Gilman will both be working from home. To reach Mary, please leave a message at the church office: 507-726-2849.
- **Pastor Andrea is available for conversation and prayer!** Please reach out to her by phone or text at 507-402-1114. She’s also happy to schedule one-on-one pastoral visits via Zoom video

conferencing.

- **The Monday “Dwelling on the Word” study has shifted to an online format.** You’re invited to join us for a time of prayer, reflection and conversation as we consider the gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. To join us on Monday at 11:00, please go to: <https://zoom.us/j/322134420>
- **Offerings** can be mailed to the Church Office (PO Box 236, Lake Crystal). Please consider our eGiving options for making one-time or recurring donations electronically. Details available at: <https://www.zionluthlakecrystal.org/giving>.

ZLCW Update: The Minnesota River WELCA Spring Conference originally scheduled for April 25 has been cancelled.

The Lake Crystal Sharing Shelf continues to serve our community during this time of need. Donations of food can be dropped in the cart at Kevin’s Market. They are currently in need of the following: flour, oil, chili with beans, pears, apple sauce, bags of white rice and 5# bags of potatoes.

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