

Our Saviour

Lutheran Church



*“So God’s promise came true: You king is coming
... he is humble and rides on a donkey.”*

Saturday Service
The Vigil of Palm Sunday
2 April 2023
www.oslc-warrenton.org

GATHERING

Gathering Song

Hosanna

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Lord we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise
Be exalted O Lord my God, Hosanna in the highest.

Welcome

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11 (CEV, alt.)

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus and his disciples came near Jerusalem, he went to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives and sent two of them on ahead. ² He told them, “Go into the next village, where you will at once find a donkey and her colt. Untie the two donkeys and bring them to me. ³ If anyone asks why you are doing this, just say, ‘The Lord needs them.’ He will at once let you have the donkeys.”

⁴ So God's promise came true, just as the prophet had said,

⁵ *“Announce to the people of Jerusalem:
‘Your king is coming to you! He is humble and rides on a donkey.
He comes on the colt of a donkey.’ ”*

⁶ The disciples left and did what Jesus had told them to do. ⁷ They brought the donkey and its colt and laid some clothes on their backs. Then Jesus got on.

⁸ Many people spread clothes in the road, while others put down branches which they had cut from palm trees. ⁹ Some people walked ahead of Jesus and others followed behind. They were all shouting,

“Hosanna - hooray -- for the Son of David! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hooray for God in heaven above!”

¹⁰ When Jesus came to Jerusalem, everyone in the city was excited and asked, “Who can this be?”

¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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.

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.

Repeat Gathering Song???

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L Let us pray. *[A brief pause]*

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

Reading **Philippians 2:5-11**

L 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel **Matthew 27:11-54**

P The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Narrator:¹¹ Jesus was standing before the governor, *Pilate*.

Pilate: Are You the King of the Jews?

Jesus: So you say.

Narrator:¹² The chief priests and the elders *stood and poured out their accusations: that Jesus was a traitor, a seditious rebel, a crazy, a would-be Savior, and a would-be king*. Jesus stood in the stream of accusations, but He did not respond.

Pilate:¹³ Do You hear these accusations they are making against You?

Narrator: ¹⁴ Still Jesus said nothing, which Pilate found rather astounding—*no protests, no defense, nothing.*

¹⁵ Now the governor had a custom. During the *great Jewish festival of Passover*, he would allow the crowd to pick one of the condemned men, and he, *Pilate*, would set the man free. *Just like that. Gratuitous, gracious freedom.* ¹⁶ At this time, they had a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd gathered, Pilate offered them a choice:

Pilate: Whom do you want me to free? Barabbas or Jesus, whom some call the Anointed One?

Narrator: ¹⁸ Pilate knew the chief priests and elders hated Jesus and had delivered Him up because they envied Him.

¹⁹ Then Pilate sat down on his judgment seat, and he received a message from his wife: “Distance yourself utterly from *the proceedings against* this righteous man. I have had a dream about Him, a dream full of twisted sufferings—*He is innocent, I know it, and we should have nothing to do with Him.*”

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders convinced the crowd to demand that Barabbas, not Jesus, *whom-some-call-the-Anointed-One*, be freed and that Jesus be put to death.

Pilate (standing before the crowd): ²¹ Which of these men would you have me free?

Crowd (shouting): Barabbas!

Pilate: ²² What would you have me do with this Jesus, whom some call the Anointed One?

Crowd (shouting): Crucify Him!

Pilate: ²³ Why? What crime has this man committed?

Crowd (responding with a shout): Crucify Him!

Narrator: ²⁴ Pilate saw that unless he wanted a riot on his hands, he now had to bow to their wishes. So he took *a pitcher of water*, stood before the crowd, and washed his hands.

Pilate: You will see to this crucifixion, for this man’s blood will be *upon you* and not upon me. *I wash myself of it.*

Crowd: ²⁵ Indeed, let His blood be upon us—upon us and our children!\

Narrator: ²⁶ So Pilate released Barabbas, and he had Jesus flogged and handed over to be crucified.

²⁷ The governor’s soldiers took Jesus into a great hall, gathered a great crowd, ²⁸ and stripped Jesus of His clothes, draping Him in a bold scarlet cloak, *the kind that soldiers sometimes wore*. ²⁹ They gathered some thorny vines, wove them into a crown, and perched that crown upon His head. They stuck a reed in His right hand, and then they knelt before Him, *this inside-out, upside-down King*. They mocked Him *with catcalls*.

Soldiers: Hail, the King of the Jews!

Narrator: ³⁰ They spat on Him and whipped Him on the head with *His scepter of reeds*, ³¹ and when they had their fill, they pulled off the bold scarlet cloak, dressed Him in His own simple clothes, and led Him off to be crucified.

³² As they were walking, they found a man called Simon of Cyrene and forced him to carry the cross. ³³ Eventually they came to a place called Golgotha, which means “Place of the Skull.” ³⁴ There they gave Him a drink—wine mixed with bitter herbs. He tasted it but refused to drink it.

³⁵ And so they had Him crucified. They divided the clothes off His back by drawing lots, ³⁶ and they sat on the ground and watched Him *hang*. ³⁷ They placed a sign over His head: “This is Jesus, King of the Jews.” ³⁸ And then they crucified two thieves next to Him, one at His right hand and one at His left hand.

³⁹ Passersby shouted curses and blasphemies at Jesus. They wagged their heads *at Him and hissed*.

Passersby: ⁴⁰ You’re going to destroy the temple and then rebuild it in three days? Why don’t You start with saving Yourself? Come down from the cross if You can, if You’re God’s Son.

Chief Priests, Scribes, and Elders (mocking Him): ⁴¹⁻⁴² He saved others, but He can’t save Himself. If He’s really the King of Israel, then let Him climb down from the cross—then we’ll believe Him. ⁴³ He claimed communion with God—well, let God save Him, if He’s God’s beloved Son.

Narrator: ⁴⁴ Even the thieves hanging to His right and left poured insults upon Him. ⁴⁵ And then, starting at noon, the entire land became dark. It was dark for three hours. ⁴⁶ In the middle of the dark afternoon, Jesus cried out in a loud voice.

Jesus: Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani—My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Bystanders: ⁴⁷ He's calling on Elijah.

Narrator: ⁴⁸ One bystander grabbed a sponge, steeped it in vinegar, stuck it on a reed, and gave Jesus the vinegar to drink.

Others: ⁴⁹ We'll see—we'll see if Elijah is going to come and rescue Him.

Narrator: ⁵⁰ And then Jesus cried out once more, loudly, and then He breathed His last breath. ⁵¹ At that instant, the temple curtain was torn in half, from top to bottom. The earth shook; rocks split in two; ⁵² tombs burst open, and bodies of many sleeping holy women and men were raised up. ⁵³ After Jesus' resurrection, they came out of their tombs, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and showed themselves to people.

⁵⁴ When the Centurion and soldiers who had been charged with guarding Jesus felt the earthquake *and saw the rocks splitting and the tombs opening*, they were, of course, terrified.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of Day Prepare the Royal Highway ELW 264

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Prayers of the People

When prompted, call out names of people, places or organizations for which you are thankful or that are in need of God's care.

MEAL

Sharing Our Gifts

L Let us offer back to God what God has first given us: our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of his gracious love.

Our offerings support the work of the church. Please pass the baskets from front to back. You may also make an offering online at www.oslc-warrenton.org by clicking the "DONATE" tab on the homepage.

Offertory Song

O Spirit All-Embracing

O Spirit all-embracing and counselor all-wise,
Unbounded splendor gracing a shoreless sea of skies:
Unfailing is your treasure, unfading your reward;
Surpassing worldly pleasure, the riches you afford.
Come, stream of endless flowing, and rescue us from death;
Come, wind of springtime blowing, and warm us by your breath.

O Beauty ever blazing in flower, field, and face,
You show yourself amazing in unexpected place.
We see you and remember what once our dreams had been;
You fan the glowing ember and kindle hope within.
Come, fire of glory gracious, bless all who trust in you;
Undying flame tenacious, burn in your church anew.

Come, passion's power holy, your insight here impart,
And give your servants lowly an understanding heart
To know your care more clearly when faith and love are tried,
To seek you more sincerely when false ideals have died;
For vision we implore you, for wisdom's pure delight;
In prayer we come before you to wait upon your light.

Offering Prayer

L Let us pray together. *[A brief pause]*

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Dialogue

The presiding minister invites the people to prayer.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving Prayer

P Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. ...

... Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray as our Savior taught us.

**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.**

Sharing Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are invited to share Christ's Body. If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please come forward and stand or kneel around the altar.

Communion Song

Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)

One day when heaven was filled with His praises,
One day when sin was as black as could be,
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin,
Dwelt among men my example is He.
The Word became flesh and the light shined among us.
His glory revealed.

Refrain:

Living, He loved me, dying He saved me.
Buried, He carried my sins far away.
Rising, He justified freely forever.
One day He's coming, O glorious day, O glorious day.

One day they led Him up Calv'ry's mountain.
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree.
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected,
bearing our sins my Redeemer is He.
The hand that healed nations stretched out on a tree
And took the nails from me. **Refrain**

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer,
One day the stone rolled away from the door.
Then He arose over death He had conquered.
Now is ascended my Lord evermore.
Death could not hold Him,
The grave could not keep Him from rising again. **Refrain**

Prayer After Communion

L Let us pray. *[A brief pause]*

L Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love:

teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

Sending Song How Great is Our God

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

Refrain:

How great is our God! Sign with me:
How great is our God! And all will see how great,
How great is our God!

And age to age He stands,
And time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

(Refrain)

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing: How great is our God!
(Repeat)

(Refrain)

Dismissal

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

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