

MORNING WORSHIP on Zoom 10AM

Code: 229508663 PW: 056996

“People of God...serving God by serving others”

March 28, 2021- ***Palm Sunday***

Before we begin Worship we acknowledge that we worship on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe (meaning “the people”) People, and we honor their elders both past and present.

Gathering Hymn “Prepare the Royal Highway” #264 ELW vs.1, 2 & 4

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| Prepare the Royal Highway; The King of kings is near! | God’s people, see him coming: your own eternal king! |
| Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear! | Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing! |
| Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story | God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! (refrain) |
| Refrain: | His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav’n above. |
| Hosana to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s word! | His rule is peace and freedom and justice truth and love. |
| | So let praise be sounding for kindness so abounding. (refrain) |

**THE CRY OF THE WHOLE CONGREGATION
WORSHIP FOR THE WAY OF THE CROSS**

The Entry into Jerusalem - The Palm Sunday Procession

Narrator: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest.

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

Jesus: “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, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”

Narrator: This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “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.” 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. The crowds that went ahead of them and that followed were shouting,

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

Hymn “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #344 ELW

**(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)

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

People: “Who is this?”

Narrator: The crowds were saying,

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

Narrator: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Narrator: 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 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 may 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.**

Narrator: Let us go forth in peace,

People: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #344 ELW*

(Refrain): **All Glory, Laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you sent.
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)

Narrator: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest.

Narrator: Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

Judas: “What will you give me if I betray him to you?”

Narrator: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

People: “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

Narrator: He said,

Jesus: "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"

Narrator: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

Jesus: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

Narrator: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another;

People: "Surely not I, Lord?"

Narrator: He answered,

Jesus: "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

Narrator: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas: "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

Narrator: He replied,

Jesus: "You have said so."

Narrator: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus: "Take, eat; this is my body."

Narrator: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them saying,

Jesus: "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Narrator: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

Narrator: Peter said to him,

Peter: "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

Narrator: Peter said to him,

Peter: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

Narrator: And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane.

Hymn "Go to Dark Gethsemane" #347 ELW

**Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power
Your redeemer's conflicts see, Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away, learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

Narrator: Jesus said to his disciples,

Jesus: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Narrator: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

Jesus: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

Narrator: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

Narrator: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Narrator: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

Jesus: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

Narrator: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Narrator: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

Narrator: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Narrator: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest: "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

Narrator: They answered,

People: "He deserves death."

Narrator: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

People: "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Narrator: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

Servant-girl #1: "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

Narrator: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

Peter: "I do not know what you are talking about."

Narrator: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

Servant girl #2: "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Narrator: Again he denied it with an oath,

Peter: "I do not know the man."

Narrator: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

People: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."

Narrator: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter: "I do not know the man!"

Narrator: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

Judas: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

Narrator: But they said,

High Priest: "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

Narrator: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

High Priest: "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

Narrator: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: "You say so."

Narrator: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

Narrator: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

Narrator: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

Pilate's Wife: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

Narrator: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Pilate: "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

Narrator: And they said,

People: "Barabbas."

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

Narrator: All of them said,

People: "Let him be crucified!"

Narrator: Then he asked,

Pilate: "Why, what evil has he done?"

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

People: "Let him be crucified!"

Narrator: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Pilate: "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

Narrator: Then the people as a whole answered,

People: "His blood be on us and on our children!"

Narrator: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Hymn "Were You There?" #353 ELW

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?

Narrator: Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

People: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Narrator: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha, (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

Narrator: And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Hymn "Were You There?" #353 ELW

**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?**

Narrator: The two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

People: "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."

Narrator: In the same way the chief priest also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

High Priest: "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. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

Narrator: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

Narrator: that is,

Jesus: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Narrator: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

People: "This man is calling for Elijah."

Narrator: At 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. But the others said,

People: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

Narrator: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

Hymn “Were You There?” #353 ELW

**Were you there when He cried out at the end?
Were you there when He cried out in the end?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when He cried out in the end.**

Narrator: Now 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,

People: “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

Narrator: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Hymn “Were You There?” #353 ELW

**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?**

Narrator: The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

High Priest: “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.”

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.”

Narrator: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” #335 vs 1 & 4 ELW

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. (*refrain*)

Offering

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Redeeming God, your church proclaims your gospel of truth and courage. Gather your children together to share in the promise of Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hosanna, Son of David. Lead your children to care for your good creation and all its inhabitants: lands, waters, plants, and all living creatures. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Softening the hearts of political leaders who ignore or deny suffering, struggle, and injustice. Lift up leaders who seek your will for the sake of their people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring companionship to those who feel abandoned, comfort to those in pain, hope to those in despair, and healing to all in need especially family & friends of Gus, Luke (Leanne's nephew) Judy, Sheryl, Wally and Colleen, Paula, Bill, Ruthann, Beverly, Chuck, Wilma, Barb, Gene, "Tiny," Pavel, Alla, Oliver and Victoria. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Walk with this community as we remember your life-giving passion and death. Send us forth burning with desire to share your word with a hurting world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who suffer from the coronavirus, and those who have died from the coronavirus. Receive the dead into your gentle embrace and comfort their loved ones with the power and protection of your peace. Give hope and healing to those who are sick and protection and healing hands and hearts, to the care givers and those on the front lines. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember those who were imprisoned or martyred for their faith, especially the theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and give thanks for their bold confession and witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's 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.

Announcements

Blessing

May Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"* #337 ELW vs. 1, 2 & 5

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?
Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my eyes to tears.
But tears of grief cannot repay the debt of love I owe;
here, Lord, I give myself away: tis all that I can do.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.