## Palm Sunday ~ March 24, 2024~

**St John’s & St. Peter’s**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Confession & Forgiveness**

P: Lent is a season of transformation. The cross calls us to die to selfish ways and rise to new life in Christ. Yet, we are resistant to change. Let us go before God and confess the ways we fail to live as Easter people.

P: Transforming God, we confess that we often turn away from you and turn toward behaviors that yield brokenness in our lives. We let our emotions get the best of us. We ignore the cries of the poor. We waste our resources to acquire unnecessary things. Forgive us, God. Teach us compassion and self-sacrifice. May our words and deeds be manna to those who hunger for justice and mercy. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

L: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In the name of Jesus Christ +, I declare that your sins are forgiven.
Amen.

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**Greeting**

P: 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.***

**Hymn of the Day *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*** Hymn #344

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

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

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

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

## Prayer of the Day Celebrate Insert

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a Celebrate Insert

*The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today’s reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God’s steadfast love.*

## 4 The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. 5 The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. 6 I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. 7 The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; 8he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. 9 It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

**Psalm 31:9-16**

9Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

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

11I 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.

12**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot. Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit.**

13For 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.

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

15My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

16**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love." Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit.**

**Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11**

*Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ’s example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ’s death.*

5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but 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. 9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Gospel: Mark 11:1-11** Celebrate Insert

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples **2**and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. **3**If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this: ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’ ” **4**They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, **5**some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” **6**They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. **7**Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. **8**Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. **9**Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!  Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
**10**    Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” **11**Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*** Hymn #351

Vs. 1 O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
 now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
 O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
 Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

Vs. 2 How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;
 how does thy face now languish, which once was bright as morn!
 Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain;
 mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.

Vs. 3 What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
 for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
 Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
 Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Vs. 4 Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die;
 remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.
 These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move;
 for all who die believing die safely in thy love.

**Apostles’ Creed**

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 the People**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creations, and a world in need.

Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ’s suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather you people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. Hear us, God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds and native plants. Hear us, God. **Your mercy is great.**

Establish peace and justice among the nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized or in foster care, that they may know your love. Hear us, God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give energy to our pastor, deacons, worship leaders and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life. Hear us, God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive these the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** ELW #686

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** ELW pg. 145

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.***

**Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord’s face shine on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*** Hymn #338

Vs. 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
 the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
 a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
 from the burning of the noontide heat and the burdens of the day.

Vs. 2 Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
 the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
 And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
 the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

Vs. 3 I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
 I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
 content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
 my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

***C: Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude**

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