



Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021
Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, Erie Pa

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

The Palm Sunday Story

Congregation stands as able

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

Palm Sunday Gospel Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem Mark 11:1-11

Narrator When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 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. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' "

They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them,

People "What are you doing, untying the colt?"

Narrator They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

People "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Narrator 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.

Blessing of the Palms *The congregation raises their palm branches.*

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

Let us go forth in peace,
In the name of the Lord.

Processional Hymn ELW 344 All Glory, Laud, and Honor v.1

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*

Hosanna

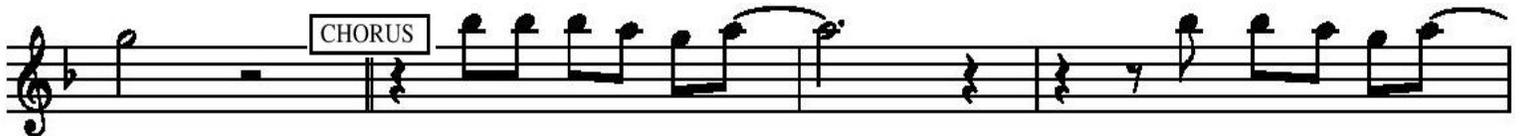
C. Tuttle



1. Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high -
2. Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry to the King of



-est! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high -
kings! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry to the King of



-est! Lord we lift up Your name — with hearts full of praise. .
kings!



— Be ex - alt - ed, oh — Lord, my God. Ho -

1. 3. Fine 2. D.S. al Fine

-san - na in the high - est! kings! 1. Ho -
 Glo - ry to the King of _____

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

Prayer of the Day

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.
Amen.

WORD

Psalm 31:9-16

prayed responsively

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.**

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."**

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, 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.

Sermon - Lay Worship Leader: Rick Penn

Hymn ELW 338 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* v. 1, 2



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face:



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

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 Intercession

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence.

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer, especially those who have asked for our prayers: (*read first names only from the prayer list in bulletin, then add "and others whose names we speak aloud or silently in our hearts."*); grant respite and renewal. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

An Offering Moment

Lent calls us to return to God. Giving alms, prayer, and fasting traditionally are Lenten disciplines involved with our return. Whether you worship at home, online or in-person, we invite you to remember Abiding Hope with your offerings during this season of Lent as you return to God.

Let us pray. Blessed are you,
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Story of the Last Supper

Jesus Ate the Passover with the Disciples

Mark 14:17-25

Narrator When it was evening, [Jesus] came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,
"Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."
They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

People "Surely, not I?"

Narrator He said to them,
"It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For 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."
While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke

it, gave it to them, and said,
"Take; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Prayers of Distribution - Lay Distributor: Analee Cree

(At this service of worship, we receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion through the distribution of the elements blessed at a previous celebration. Our Lay Distributors of Holy Communion were selected by the congregational council, received instruction, and were appointed by our synodical bishop. They will serve this congregation during times of pastoral vacancy so that we may continue to receive communion as Christ's body here at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church.)

Lord's Prayer

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.

The Story of Jesus' Passion

The Passion Gospel Mark 15:1-39

Narrator Jesus has been arrested, and brought before the high priest, where he was falsely accused and charged with blasphemy.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

People "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Narrator Jesus answered him, "You say so."
Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

People "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

Narrator But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.
Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

People "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

Narrator For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

People "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

Narrator They shouted back,

People "Crucify him!"

Narrator Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more,

People "Crucify him!"

Narrator So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

People "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Narrator They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

People "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

Narrator In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

People "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

Narrator Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

People "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

Narrator And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

People "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Narrator Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

(Pause for silent prayer)

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

People "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Sending Hymn ELW 347 Go to Dark Gethsemane, v.1, 3

1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, you that feel the
3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful mourn - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete: "It is fin - ished!"
griefs a - way; learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.
hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.

Blessing

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Parish Notes for March 28, 2021

Please pray for:

Pastor Andrew and Diane Edwards and family, Pr. Gail Zackrison and family, Bishop Lozano, Bob Pacileo, Don Fuller, Gloria & Richard Wolbach, Shirley Wolbach, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, Lynn, Joyce Hersperger, Sandy Pacileo, Trevor Murnock, Carrie Fiske, Teresa Burgess.

Prayer Requests: Please call or email Carol Whitbred with prayer requests.

Phone: 814-866-6552, E-Mail: cew6@psu.edu. Names will remain on our printed lists for four weeks unless renewed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:30-2:30. On other days, you may contact our council president Andy Saska at avsaska@roadrunner.com or 814-450-5620.

Pastoral Emergencies: Rev. Albert U. Gesler, Jr at 814-873-2682

Packaged Communion Sets are available for your use during worship services. If you worship online, please pick yours up at church on Monday & Tuesday 9:30 am-2:30 pm, or make other arrangements with any council member.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? How about Financial Secretary?

According to our constitution and bylaws, no elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than five consecutive terms in the same office. Therefore, someone other than Pat Wenzel will need to be Financial Secretary in 2022. The main duties are entering weekly contributions, composing monthly reports to church council, and mailing out quarterly statements. It averages about 2 hours a week...any day or time that is convenient for you as long as the office computer is available.

If this is something that interests you, contact Pat Wenzel and arrange to shadow her (in person or virtually) to acquaint yourself with the job. Contact her at RNWenzel@gmail.com or phone 864-1898.

FINANCES AT AH - YEAR-TO-DATE (as of end of February):

\$14,302 current offerings received in February 2021

\$12,151 needed monthly to meet 2021 **budgeted** expenses

YEAR-TO-DATE (as of end of February)

\$23,857 year-to-date current offerings received

\$24,302 year-to-date needed for **budgeted** expenses

During this time of transition, guest worship leaders have been invited to preside at worship services. Because of this, sermons may not always be included in the USPS bulletin mailings.

Easter Day: Rev. Andrew Edwards

April 11: Greg Zimmerman and a lay distributor of Holy Communion

The Three Days - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Vigil of Easter

Christ's whole journey has been preparation for his death on the cross. Led by his passion for the world Christ died a horrible and public death. In a way, we reenact his death liturgically with these three services during Holy Week. The Spirit leads us into sorrow that we might know true joy dawning with the resurrection.

Because Abiding Hope is *not* holding these special worship services this year, our congregation is invited to participate in online, in-person, or in-parking lot Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter worship services with other local, Lutheran congregations. Some of their worship schedule details will be included in our April newsletter, or you may wish to call the church offices to inquire about their schedules.

In-person Sunday worship services. We will continue to email and mail weekly worship bulletins for all who worship at home. We will observe these guidelines when in the building to keep everyone safe.

- There will be only one service at 9:30 AM on Sundays.
- We will continue to live-stream on FaceBook, then post the service to our web page.
- Masks are mandatory.
- Please use the provided hand sanitizer upon entering the church.
- If you have any symptoms, please stay home.
- Our seating arrangement will reflect social distancing.
 - Only families can sit together
 - There is a limit of approximately 25 people (depending on the number of families sitting together)
 - Pews will be taped off.
- There will be a sign-in sheet in case of a need for contact tracing.
- Printed bulletins will be placed on the pews.
- We will *not* be sharing the peace.
- We will only be singing 2 verses of a song.
- Communion will be in the pews with the packaged communion wafer and wine.

Easter Day RSVP: Please contact the church office at 814-868-8685 to reserve seats for the Easter Day worship service. Your name and the number of people attending are needed. If no one answers, please leave a message. There is limited seating, so this will be on a first come and first serve basis.

We look forward to being able to worship ALL TOGETHER again and will keep you updated as guidelines (or worship schedules) change ... hopefully in the near future.