

# Palm Sunday

March 29, 1026

## PRE-SERVICE VIDEO

## WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Holy Week continues and all are welcome

**Maundy Thursday** – evening communion service at 7 pm with Pastor Carolyn presiding.

**Good Friday** worship is at **11:00 am** – please note this later time.

**Easter Sunday** Communion Celebration will be at 10:00 am with Pastor Carolyn presiding.

## INTRODUCTION

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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

### **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." 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 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!"

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

The gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you O Christ.**

Jesus is coming!  
**Open the ancient doors.**

Jesus is coming!  
**He's riding on a donkey.**

Jesus is coming!  
**Pave the way with branches.**

Jesus is coming!  
**Shout Hosanna!**

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**Hosanna to the Son of David!**

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

**"Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord"**



Musical notation for the first line of the hymn. It is written on a single staff in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a circled '1' above the first measure. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho -".



Musical notation for the second line of the hymn. It is written on a single staff in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a circled '2' above the first measure. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes, including some beamed eighth notes and accents. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est!".

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

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna! Save us, O God. Hosanna!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

The word 'hosanna' is often sung with joy and glee on this day. We process in, we wave palm branches, and it feels like a celebration. But the truth is, the word 'hosanna' actually means, "save us." The people so many years ago were crying out to Jesus for help because they knew—this world is not as it should be.

We know it, too. That there is too much hurt here in our own world; in our own country; in our own lives and homes. That our own Hosanna! moment is right before us as we cry out to God in confession, admitting the ways we have fall short, crying out once more, "God, save us!"

"Prepare the Royal Highway" v1 ELW 264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

On this day we lay our palm branches before you.

On this day our lips cry **Hosanna!**

While our aching hearts cry, "**Lord, save us!**"

Hear our prayers as we come to you.

**Save us O God.**

**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!**

**We confess we are a fickle people,  
one minute praising you with our lips,  
the next shouting crucify!  
We look to the ways of power and violence and greed  
that turn our hearts away from one another and from you.  
We reject and deny your love  
and do not understand your life-giving ways for all the world.  
Have mercy on us, O God, for we are in trouble.  
Forgive us.  
Let your face shine upon us once more and save us in your steadfast love.**

People of God, we hear this good news:  
God, who is merciful and kind, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
hears the cries of all who plead for mercy and, in these last days,  
has sent Christ Jesus to announce the good news of forgiveness and release  
to all who are bound by guilt or broken by shame,  
that they might praise God and serve the world with glad and generous hearts.

For freedom, Christ has set us free.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**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!**

We hear now a meditation on today's processional gospel, prepared by Pr Peter Lisinski, who serves Emmanuel Lutheran, North York, in the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC.

**PALM SUNDAY MEDITATION** – [on video](#)

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**Hosanna in the highest!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

It is our delight to pray. Lord Jesus, our faith can be fickle, but your love is not. Your people might sing your praises one moment, then abandon, deny, and crucify you the next. But your faithfulness remains strong. Increase our faith so that we may walk the road of salvation; a road that leads to the cross and ends in your resurrection and life for us all; through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

### **READING: Philippians 2:5-11**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Be Unto Your Name"

1. We are a mo - ment, You are for - ev - er, Lord of the a -  
 2. We are the bro - ken, You are the heal - er, Je - sus, Re - deem -

6  
 ges, God be - fore time; We are a va - por,  
 er, might - y to save; You are the love song

11  
 You are e - ter - nal, Love ev - er - last - ing, reign - ing on high.  
 17 we'll sing for - ev - er, bow - ing be - fore You, bless - ing Your name.

23 Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God Al - might - y, worth - y

is the Lamb Who was slain; High - est prais - es, hon - or, and glo -

36 ry be un - to Your name, be un - to Your

1 name. 2 name. Ho - ly, ho - ly

42  
 Lord God Al - might - y, worth - y is the Lamb Who was slain;

48 High - est prais - es, hon - or, and glo - ry be un - to Your

name, be un - to Your name.

## PEACE

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

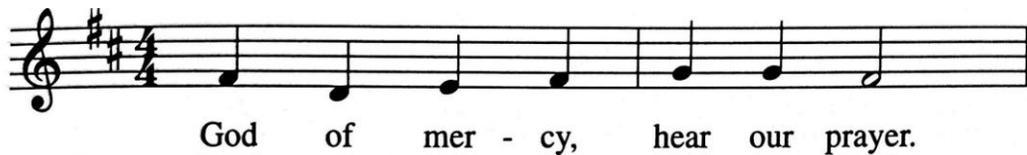
Please share a sign of peace with one another.

## OFFERING

Let us pray. Merciful God, everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MARLA & LINDA



O God, we pray for your church around the world. We thank you for the grace that we have witnessed pouring out of your church. Awaken Christians everywhere to new proclamations of your faithfulness, and by your Spirit, give us compassionate hearts and bold words to speak.

***Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.***

Send your Spirit of justice and peace to those who experience strife and discord, violence and heartbreaking need. As so many have had their lives uprooted through no fault of their own, we pray for the leaders of nations that they seek your wisdom.

***Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.***

Send your accompanying presence to those who are unable to be among community this week, whether because of travel, illness, or vulnerability. Anoint those who need healing and wholeness with your reviving Spirit. We pray for Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Victor and Judy, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda H, Murray, Shirley J., Derek, Shirley K., Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Helga, Clayton and Margaret, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Ray, Doreen, Alan T, and those we name silently now . . .

***Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.***

We give you thanks for the gifts of family and community. Pour out your courage and wisdom on us that together we may share in one another's joys and sorrows. Bless those who care for our property and hold in your care Marlene Lund and Anna Madsen, and Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans. Help us be prepared to share the feast of your love with all whom we encounter, and give us willing hearts to follow you, even to the cross.

***Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.***

God of all things, you pour out your grace upon us through living water, healing oil, and cups running over. Give your grace anew to all who are grieving, especially on Brayden and Alisha and Walt and Delilah and family and all who mourn the passing of Miriam Yanke. We pray too that you will comfort Marlene Lund and Bernice Megli and all the family as they grieve the passing of Marlene's sister.

***Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.***

We bring our prayers to you, those we speak and those we hold deep in our hearts, trusting in your abundance, whether we sense it or not. Even in days of sorrow or seasons of grief, remind us of your unyielding grace. **Amen**

And now, with the confidence of those caught up in God's abundant love, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

**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.**

## ENTRANCE INTO HOLY WEEK: HE KEPT ON WALKING

Throughout his ministry, Jesus and his disciples walking dusty roads from one village to the next, where there were lame people and blind people that Jesus would heal, and then crowds would gather to hear him teach. As they journeyed, Jesus would have all kinds of conversations with his disciples, trying to help them understand his mission, and his dream for the world.

And all the way, they were heading for Jerusalem. Where Jesus knew he would come up against all the powers. Where he would be abandoned, rejected, betrayed, humiliated, flogged, and nailed to a cross. *And yet he kept on walking.*

Today on Palm Sunday we celebrate what is often called Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem. Jesus' followers in excited anticipation experienced it as a royal procession, thinking that Jesus would become king. Jesus let them treat him as royalty, even as he arrived on a donkey.

But deep in his heart, he knew that this was also like a funeral procession, or a journey to the cross. After each sentence I read, I invite you to respond with "he kept on walking."

Jesus knew that every step he took was one step closer to his death.  
***He kept on walking.***

Jesus knew that before he died, he would have to confront the centre of religious power, those who used God's name to manipulate and control and oppress.  
***He kept on walking.***

He knew that he would be betrayed to death by one of his friends and companions on the road.  
***He kept on walking.***

He knew that he would be falsely tried by a corrupt and unjust legal system.  
***He kept on walking.***

He knew the crowds were fickle and likely to turn on him as they had the prophets before him.  
***He kept on walking.***

He knew he would be mocked and humiliated.  
***He kept on walking.***

Jesus knew his dearest and closest friends would fail him, abandon him, deny him, and struggle to believe in him.  
***He kept on walking.***

He knew he would be flogged and tortured almost beyond what he could physically bear.  
***He kept on walking.***

He knew his mother's heart and the hearts of the men and women who loved him would be broken.  
***He kept on walking.***

He knew he would suffer an agonizing death, and face the greatest confusion and darkness he had ever known.

***He kept on walking.***

He knew that if he was faithful to the end, he would know the greatest joy, of bringing redemption to the world.

***He kept on walking.***

He knew and trusted: the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not – cannot - overcome it. God’s love would prevail.

***He kept on walking.***

Let us pray. Merciful God, as we enter Holy week, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only praise Jesus with our lips, but may also follow him in the way of the cross. In your holy name, we pray. **Amen.**

**“Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross” ELW 335 – v 1 & 3**



Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

## BLESSING

God + bless and keep us always in your love. **Amen.**

MARLA

## SENDING

We go from this place to follow Jesus.

**Hosanna! Save us, O God.**

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