

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday of the Passion

March 24, 2024

Step by Step

As We Gather

Today's processional Gospel
looks at the first day of Holy
Week, and the Passion carries
us on to Jesus' tomb.

Throughout the entire week,
and since His transfiguration,
our Lord has moved toward the
cross step by step. Despite
opposition from crowds and His
circle of friends,

He has been determined to love us to death so that He might open heaven to us by the grace of God. Zechariah had written about the procession centuries earlier,

and Paul proclaims that God the Father has exalted Jesus for His steadfast commitment to our salvation. But this is no mere history!

We also are called to follow, to live through each day, step by step, faithful under various circumstances yet confident of mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

PROCESSION OF PALMS

If the procession begins
outside the nave, the
congregation gathers around
the processional cross. If the
congregation is already seated
in the nave,

it now stands and faces the
processional cross at the
entrance to the nave.

Greeting

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Blessed is He who comes in
the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna to the Son of
David.**

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Help us, Lord our God, so that
it may be with joy that we begin
our contemplation of all the
mighty things You have done to
give us eternal life; through
Your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Lord. C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

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 Him
thanks and praise.**

Prayer

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, heavenly Father. Today we especially thank You for the love You showed as Your Son redeemed us.

Step by step our Savior
followed Your will so that by His
glorious death He would
redeem us and draw us to
Himself. When Jesus entered
Jerusalem,

those who greeted Him cut
palm branches to lay before
Him.

**C We ask that You bless
these palms and all who bear
them this day. Grant that we
may always hail Him as our
Lord and King;**

P through the same Jesus
Christ, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

C **Amen.**

442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ref 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 Blessèd
One.

ref All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

2 The company of angels
Is praising You on high,
And we with all creation
In chorus make reply.

ref 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
went; Our praise and prayer
and anthems; Before You we
present.

ref All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

4 To You before Your passion
They sang their hymns of
praise; To You, now high
exalted, Our melody we raise.

ref All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

5 As You received their
praises, Accept the prayers we
bring, O Source of ev'ry
blessing, Our good and
gracious King.

ref All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

*When all have arrived at their
places, the procession
concludes with the following:*

**P Blessed is He who comes in
the name of the Lord.**

C Hosanna in the highest.

PREPARATION

Invocation

P In the name of the Father
and of the T Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P Today is the beginning of
Holy Week. During it we shall
recall how our Savior gave His
life so that our sins may all be
forgiven, and heaven opened
to us.

**C Even during worship,
our minds wander to other
concerns.**

**P These concerns are already
known to God. Give them into
His loving hands for resolution,
but turn your hearts and minds**

to focus on our Lord's
step-by-step determination to
free us from every sin.
Confident of the forgiveness
He won through His glorious
death and resurrection,

let us then admit our sinful
condition to Him and to one
another.

**C I confess to you, my
brothers and sisters, that I
have sinned in my thinking,
speaking, and acting. I am
mired in sin and incapable of
saving myself.**

**Heavenly Father, for Jesus'
sake and because of His
sacrifice for us fallen
creatures, we beg You to
forgive, strengthen,**

**and turn us to Your will so
that we may follow our
Savior in loving service to
You and to one another.**

P As a called and ordained
servant of Christ, who gave
Himself over to death that we
might have eternal life, and by
His authority,

I forgive you all your sins in the
name of the Father and of the
T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

WORD

Salutation

P The peace of the Lord be
with you.

C **And also with you.**

Sharing of God's Peace

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
You sent Your Son, our Savior
Jesus Christ, to take upon
Himself our flesh and to suffer
death upon the cross.

**C Mercifully grant that we
may follow the example of
His great humility and
patience and be made
partakers of His
resurrection;**

**P through the same Jesus
Christ, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and
forever. C Amen.**

Old Testament Reading
Zechariah 9:9–12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of
Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of
Jerusalem!

behold, your king is coming to
you;

righteous and having salvation
is he,
humble and mounted on a
donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a
donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from
Ephraim
and the war horse from
Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut
off,

and he shall speak peace to
the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to
sea,
and from the River to the
ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of
the blood of my covenant with
you,
I will set your prisoners free
from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O
prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will
restore to you double.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Psalm 118:19-29

¹⁹Open to me the gates of
righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter
through it.

²¹I thank you that you have
answered me
and have become my
salvation.

²²The stone that the builders
rejected has become the
cornerstone.

²³This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our
eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the Lord
has made; let us rejoice and be
glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we pray, O Lord!
O Lord, we pray, give us
success!

²⁶Blessèd is he who comes in
the name of the Lord!

We bless you from the
house of the Lord.

²⁷The Lord is God, and he has
made his light to shine upon
us. Bind the festal sacrifice
with cords, up to the horns of
the altar!

²⁸You are my God, and I will
give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will
extol you.

²⁹Oh give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good;
for his steadfast love
endures forever!

Epistle Philippians 2:5-11,
NLT

⁵ You must have the same
attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶ Though he was God,
he did not think of equality
with God
as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave; and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human
form,

⁸ he humbled himself in
obedience to God

and died a criminal's death
on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him
to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name
above all other names,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and
under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue declare
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the
Father.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse Philippians 2:8b

P He humbled Himself by
becoming obedient to the point
of death,

C **even death on a cross.**

John 12:12–19

P The Holy Gospel according
to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

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

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey
and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, Daughter
Zion;

see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey's colt.”

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word.

¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him.

¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Message

**444 No Tramp of Soldiers'
Marching Feet**

1 No tramp of soldiers'
marching feet
With banners and with
drums,
No sound of music's martial
beat:
“The King of glory comes!”
To greet what pomp of kingly
pride
No bells in triumph ring,
No city gates swing open
wide:
“Behold, behold your King!”

2 And yet He comes. The
children cheer;
With palms His path is
strown.
With ev'ry step the cross
draws near:
The King of glory's throne.
Astride a colt He passes by
As loud hosannas ring,
Or else the very stones would
cry
"Behold, behold your King!"

3 What fading flow'rs His road
adorn;

The palms, how soon laid
down!

No bloom or leaf but only thorn

The King of glory's crown.

The soldiers mock, the rabble
cries,

The streets with tumult ring,
As Pilate to the mob replies,

“Behold, behold your King!”

4 Now He who bore for
mortals' sake

The cross and all its pains
And chose a servant's form to
take,

The King of glory reigns.
Hosanna to the Savior's name
Till heaven's rafters ring,
And all the ransomed host
proclaim

“Behold, behold your King!”

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

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Sermon

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the
Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and
earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

**The third day He rose
again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come
to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of
saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the
body,
and the life T everlasting.
Amen.**

Offering

Offertory: 786 Lord of All Good

1 Lord of all good, our gifts we
bring You now;
Use them Your holy purpose
to fulfill.

Tokens of love and pledges
they shall be
That our whole life is offered
to Your will.

2 We give our minds to
understand Your ways;
Hands, eyes, and voice to
serve Your great design;
Hearts with the flame of Your
own love ablaze—
Thus for Your glory all our
pow'rs combine.



3 Father, whose bounty
all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing
sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in
fullness flows:
To You with grateful hearts
ourselves we give.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt.
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Prayer of the Church

P Because our Lord humbled
Himself and became obedient
even to death on the cross,
now He is highly exalted, at the
Father's right hand,

ready and able to receive our
prayers and accept our praise.
Let us go to Him in prayer for
all people in their various
circumstances.

For people without the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter, that the Holy Spirit would hear their cries and groans, bringing tears of relief and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For all who face this day
burdened with illness or
addiction, ongoing conflict with
people around them, or fear of
what might happen,

that God would assure them of
His gracious presence and
strengthen their faith in His
guidance and protection, let us
pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For those who serve the
needs of others as they provide
medical and emergency care,
as they maintain order in our
communities and peace across
borders,

and as they put themselves in danger that their neighbors may find the protection they need, that God would use the gifts He has placed within them to serve in compassion and love, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For loving families and
caring communities, for
schools and institutions of
higher learning, wherever
people gather to share and
build up,

that God would provide them
the wisdom and understanding
they need to do His will, let us
pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For people near and dear to
us, [especially . . .], that God
would visit, relieve, and console
them in His grace and mercy,
and for the church here and
around the world,

that our Lord would strengthen our faith and move us to be His servants, drawing people to His glorious death and resurrection and serving Him with all that we are and have, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, heavenly
Father, we commend all for
whom we pray, trusting in Your
mercy for the sake of Your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep
you.

The Lord make His face shine
on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with
favor and T give you peace.

C Amen.

**441 Ride On, Ride On in
Majesty**

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna
cry. O Savior meek, pursue
Thy road, With palms and
scattered garments strowed.

2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Thy triumphs now
begin; O'er captive death and
conquered sin.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and
wond'ring eyes
To see the_approaching
sacrifice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is
nigh. The Father on His
sapphire throne
Awaits His own anointed Son.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow Thy meek head to mortal
pain, Then take, O God, Thy
pow'r and reign.

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.
Text: Public domain

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve
the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

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