



Palm Sunday
Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
April 10th, 2022

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the multitude of disciples begins to joyfully shout with praise. The Pharisees try to silence them, but Jesus responds: "I tell you, even if these were silent, the stones would shout out" (Luke 19:40). All of creation cries out with praise—that message rises above the noise, even if the oppressive powers want to silence it. As we begin our walk through Holy Week, let us ask: What can't be silenced? What must be said? What things can we not stay quiet about? What is bubbling up that we need to give voice to—faith questions, apologies, issues of justice, truth-telling? As we go deeper into the story, the truth will soon be set free.

Call to Worship

It is holy to gather. **It is holy to sing.**

It is holy to be generous, to throw our coats on the road.

It is holy to celebrate justice when we see it.

It is holy to shout, "Hosanna!" **It is holy to remember.**

It is holy to gather. **It is holy to sing.**

Here and now, let us do all of these things.

Palm Procession

Special music ~ Sunday School Kids

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 along that parade route so many years ago were crying out to Jesus for help, because they knew—this world is not as it should be. There is still too much hurt here. They were crying, "Save us!" In the prayer of confession, we have our own hosanna moment, because we cry out to God, admitting the ways in which we have fallen short, and we ask for God's saving hand. So friends, let us pray together, for there is still too much hurt here.

Prayer of Confession

God of street parades and hosannas,

we know that you are counting on us to speak out against oppression,

to speak up for love and to speak hope to fear, **but so often we are silent**

We worry that we'll say the wrong thing, **so we don't say anything at all.**

We worry that we'll offend, **so we keep our convictions to ourselves.**

We worry that we'll speak up and won't be heard, **so we stay silent.**

And meanwhile, the parade marches on.

Unravel our fears. Spark conviction in us. Give us the courage to yell, "Hosanna!"

Gratefully we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, even when we are silent, even when we are scared, even when we miss the moment, even when we choose to speak and say the wrong thing—we belong to God. There is nothing said or unsaid, done or undone that can undo that, so rest in this good news: **We are forgiven.**

We are known. We belong to God, every day and always. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, **sometimes life feels like a parade rushing by us as we stand on the sidelines and try not to miss it! There are hundreds of things that catch our eye, but the thing we fear missing the most is you. So slow down the speed on this parade. Paint the colors of this world a little brighter. And dance through the words in our scripture passage until it is almost impossible for us to miss you there. God we are here. We are trying to pay attention. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

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 backward. 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; ⁸ he 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.

Psalms 31:9-16

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

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

I 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.

Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.

For 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.

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

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

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Let 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, ⁸ he 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: Luke 19:28-40

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Message

Hymn of The Day

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (Verse 2&3)

ELW #344

Affirmation of Faith

Go to the village ahead of you, and you will find a colt tied there. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, say, "The Lord needs it."

We believe in a God of surprises. We believe in a God with a sense of humor. We believe that there are things we may never understand, but we believe that even in the mystery, God is there.

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt, and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

We believe in giving what we have. We believe that actions of generosity change us. We dare to believe that these small acts can change the world.

The whole crowd of disciples began joyfully praising God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen.

We believe in a God who is a miracle-maker. We believe in a God of good news. We believe this good news is so good that we cannot help but sing.

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

We believe there will be forces that try to silence what is just, good, hopeful, and generous. We do not believe those voices will have the last word.

"I tell you," Jesus replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

We believe, at the end of the day, love will find a way. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession Sing Response "Hope of All Creation"

Offering

Offering Song

Give Thanks

Gray #170

Offering Prayer

Extravagant God, **you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God who knows us, **we are amazed by you. Your love never runs out, your hope never runs dry, your joy never gives up. We wish that we could be more like you in that way.** In a world that loves scarcity, **your abundance is shocking.**

In a world that knows fear, **your joy is compelling.**

In a world that knows anxiety, **your peace is captivating. We long for these things.**

So today we ask you—**be with us on the hamster wheel. Be with us when compassion fatigue rears her head. Be with us when stress makes it hard to breathe. Be with us when self-doubt pushes in close. Be with us when exhaustion becomes constant or when loneliness becomes our primary language. Be with us, and show us the way to the life you long for us. Show us a life of expansive faith. Show us a life of overflowing joy. Show us a life of absorbing beauty. Show us a life of engrossing purpose. Show us a life that is as honest, and rich, and meaningful as the one Jesus led.**

And until that expansive and holy day, we will continue to gather at this Table. Until that day we will continue to look for you in our midst. So pour out a double portion of yourself onto this bread and cup so that we might catch a glimpse of your goodness.

God, we are amazed by you. Your love never runs out, so bring that never-ending love here.

***Words of Institution**

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***Lord's Prayer**

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Invitation to the Table

Jesus has always been one to invite. He said, "Drop your nets and follow me." He said, "Let the little children come." He said, "Stand up from your mat, you are healed." Jesus has always been one to invite, and that has not changed. So friends, you are invited to this Table. Each and every one of us—with our doubts, our fears, our scars, our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions—we are invited to God's table. And here we will be met. Here we will be fed. Here we are given a taste of an expansive life that is full to the brim with love, overflowing with joy. So come. Not because you must, but because you can. Come. You are invited. This Table is for you.

Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. **Amen.**

Sending

Benediction

As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May you laugh, and may it be contagious. May you overflow with love for those around you. May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself— go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

Sending Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (Verse 4&5)

ELW #344

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Bulletin Donated:

Mission Statement of Gustaf Lutheran Church (Adopted in 2022)

To share the Good News of God's Word and to serve the community and the world.

Matthew 22:39 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

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We celebrate weekly Holy Communion. We welcome all who believe in the Risen Christ and who find in the sacrament our Lord's real presence for the forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life. If you receive communion in your home congregation, you are invited to receive it here at G.A. Red wine and white grape juice will be offered to you in Christ's name. You may choose your preference. If you are unable to receive wheat bread, or wine, be sure that in a single element you receive the Presence and all the gifts of the sacrament.

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