



Palm/Passion Sunday
Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
March 24th, 2024

Wandering Heart: "Songs of loudest praise"

As Holy week begins, Peter is no longer front and center, and so we imagine he is with the rest of the disciples when Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt. The disciples are confused as they witness crowds shouting hosannas. When they look back on this experience, they will remember the songs. The singing is surely etched in their memories. As we imagine ourselves in the crowd on this day, may we remember that they are supposed to be praising Caesar, but instead they are shouting for the one entering the city on a donkey. Their singing is subversive, courageous, and contagious. Their praise shows the ripple effect of public displays of praise.

Opening Litany

L: Sing songs of loudest praise! **C: Hosanna!**
L: Sing songs that are unashamed. **C: Hosanna!**
L: Sing songs without being afraid. **C: Hosanna!**
L: Sing for the God of tomorrow and today. **C: Hosanna!**
L: Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

Parade of Palms

Sunday School Sings

Gathering Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (Verse 1&2)

ELW #344

Call to Confession

The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence. After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, “the disciples did not understand what was happening” (John 12:16). A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God’s presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop—or we’re standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing. That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast, and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood. So let us pray, for we don’t want to miss our chance to sing:

Prayer of Confession

L: Holy God, **C: we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall. Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song. Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines. Show us which songs are ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

L: Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—Jesus marched for you. Jesus’ love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you. You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that. So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones:

C: We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ loves you today. And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing. Go out trusting these words. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

L: God of grace, **C: your Word is like a song. It is the melody that we long to sing, the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads. So as we return to scripture once more, we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song. Allow us to hear the truth in between the words. Allow the cries of the crowd’s “hosannas” to feel like our own. With open hearts and open ears we pray, amen.**

Word

The Passion Of Our Lord: According to Matthew (Booklet)



The Congregation will read the part of the people, which is in **BOLD** type and marked by a leaf symbol.

Affirmation of Faith

L: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

C: who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey.

L: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

C: who challenged Rome's oppressive power with peaceful protest.

L: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

C: who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers.

L: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

C: so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise.

L: Hosanna!

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

Prayers of Intercession

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

Offering

Offering Song

Give Thanks

Gray #170

Offering Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Holy Communion

***Words of Institution**

Pg. 207

***Lord's Prayer**

Pg. 208

Invitation to the Table

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

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

L: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **C: Amen.**

Sending

Benediction

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. Amen.

Sending Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (Verse 3&4)

ELW #344

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve in Love.

**C: Share the Good News of God's Word and serve the community and the world.
Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Bulletin Donated: By Joleen – Happy "21" Addy Rhy

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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