

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
April 2, 2023
Palm Sunday

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Fanfare for Palm Sunday

MPC Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We raise our voices and wave with joyful hope the palms of deliverance of God's people.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!

Leader: Our hearts are filled with expectation as we welcome the coming king.

All: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Leader: We receive into the crowded streets of our lives the one who is Savior, not only of us, but of all the earth.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

***HYMN**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

197

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

As we watch the gates open for Jesus' triumphant entry, let us open the gates of our own hearts that we may confess, with all honesty, the sin that resides within.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Triumphant God, we join the crowd today, cheering your entry into our lives. But how quickly we turn from shouts of joy to taunts of hatred. Instead of greeting you when the going gets tough, we choose to greet you only when it is convenient for us. In the moments when tough choices have to be made, we build walls to keep people out instead of bigger tables to invite more guests.

We, the builders of these walls, have rejected you, the chief cornerstone. Give us courage to build tables instead of walls. Give us strength to accept your call upon our lives. Give us righteousness that we might know the difference between what is easy and what is right.

We reflect silently on the ways we have fallen short.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Amen. God's love has been poured into your hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen, and thanks be to God.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

O Lord, Have Mercy

578

O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.

O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may enter into the coming Holy Week with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Amen.

FIRST READING

Matthew 21:1-11

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:

"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 Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Ain't No Rock Gonna Shout for Me

MPC Choir

SECOND READING

Matthew 21:12-17

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer,'
but you are making it a den of robbers."

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying,

"Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,
'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise for yourself?'"

He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from the Confession of 1967

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgement under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

***THE CALL TO OFFERING**

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

607

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

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 debts
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right...to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

You are holy...the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God...now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

As you are able, please wait to consume the bread and juice, that we might partake together.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***HYMN**

O Christ, the Great Foundation

361

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

POSTLUDE