

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

D. Wood

OPENING PROCLAMATION

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

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

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

(Mark 11:1-11)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and King by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

[Please lift your palms.] Bless these palms and those who lift them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“The Palms”

J. Faure

1. O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festive preparation,
Where Jesus comes, to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.

Refrain:

Join all and sing His name declare,
Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation,
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord!
Bless Him, who cometh to bring us salvation!

2. His word goes forth, and people by its might
Once more their freedom gain from degradation,
Humanity doth give to each his right,
While those in darkness find restored the light. *[Refrain]*

3. Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,
Thro' boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith the hope to thee forevermore. *[Refrain]*

CLOSING PROCLAMATION

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world, let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM

“Once, Upon a Tree”

P. Choplin

WORD

The Passion of our Lord according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[The congregation is invited to read the boldface portions of this narrative.]

NARRATOR: Judas, one of the twelve, arrived [at the Mount of Olives]; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

NARRATOR: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

JUDAS: "Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked. They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council

were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

ACCUSERS: "We heard him say, `I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"

NARRATOR: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

HIGH PRIEST: "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "I am; and `you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and `coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

NARRATOR: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

ACCUSERS: "Prophecy!"

NARRATOR: The guards also took him over and beat him. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

NARRATOR: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

SERVANT GIRL: "This man is one of them."

NARRATOR: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

BYSTANDERS: "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

NARRATOR: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know this man you are talking about."

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,

JESUS: "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he broke down and wept. As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: He answered him,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

PILATE: "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

NARRATOR: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

PILATE: "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

PILATE: "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: They shouted back,

CROWD: "Crucify him!"

NARRATOR: Pilate asked them,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CROWD: "Crucify him!"

NARRATOR: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

SOLDIERS: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

BYSTANDERS: "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

NARRATOR: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: which means,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

BYSTANDERS: "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

NARRATOR: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

BYSTANDERS: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

NARRATOR: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

[- Silence -]

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARRATOR: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid. (Mark 14:43-15:47)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

[See back of bulletin]

SERMON

THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus you suffered as a servant. Give us humility and redeem us from pride. Heal us and help to confess Christ crucified. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In creation, life springs from death. Restore lost habitats and endangered species. Grant relief from natural disasters and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. Teach those in power not to exploit the weak, but to serve those in greatest need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who face death and bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer, (*especially everyone on our prayer list*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless all who offer care and support to those who grieve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. Give us faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(The Pastor concludes) We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Ride On! Ride On In Majesty!”

[See back of the bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Trust in God’s love and mercy.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Behold the King”

D. Paxton

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar flowers are presented in honor of the birthday of my lovely wife, Cindy, by
Jeff Ritschel.

Chancel flowers are presented in memory of Irma Kamp by Tina Butler and
Victoria and Alexandria Spitler.

Bulletins are presented in memory of Charles W. Moyer by his family.

Introduction to the day: This week, the center of the church’s year, is one of
striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to
be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark’s
gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared,
forsaken. Though we lament Christ’s suffering and all human suffering, we also
expect God’s salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will
mark a new covenant with all people.

"Once, Upon a Tree" is presented in honor of Justin McClure by the Worship and
Music Committee. (2015).

SERVING PALM SUNDAY (3/28/21)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Deb Moyer; GREETER: Krista Harding

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Deb Bolinsky; GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Jeff Ritschel

ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke and Madelyn Knecht

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Glenda Bright

SERVING MAUNDY THURSDAY (4/01/21 at 7:00 PM)

LECTOR: Sue Schenck; GREETER: Doug Travor

USHERS: Diane Brobst and Tina Butler; COMMUNION ASST.: Greg Sklar

ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke and Madelyn Knecht

SERVING GOOD FRIDAY (4/02/21 at 7:00 PM)

GREETER: Greg Sklar; USHER: Diane Brobst

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

SERVING EASTER SUNDAY (4/04/21)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul; GREETER: Doug Travor

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Cindy Ritschel; GREETER: Greg Sklar

USHERS: Tina Butler and Victoria Spitler

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, March 28	PALM SUNDAY	
	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship
Thursday, April 1	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 2	7:00 PM	Good Friday (Tenebrae) Service
Saturday, April 3	5:30-7:00 PM	Sanctuary open for meditation and reflection
Sunday, April 4	EASTER SUNDAY	
	8:00 AM	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship w/ Holy Communion

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

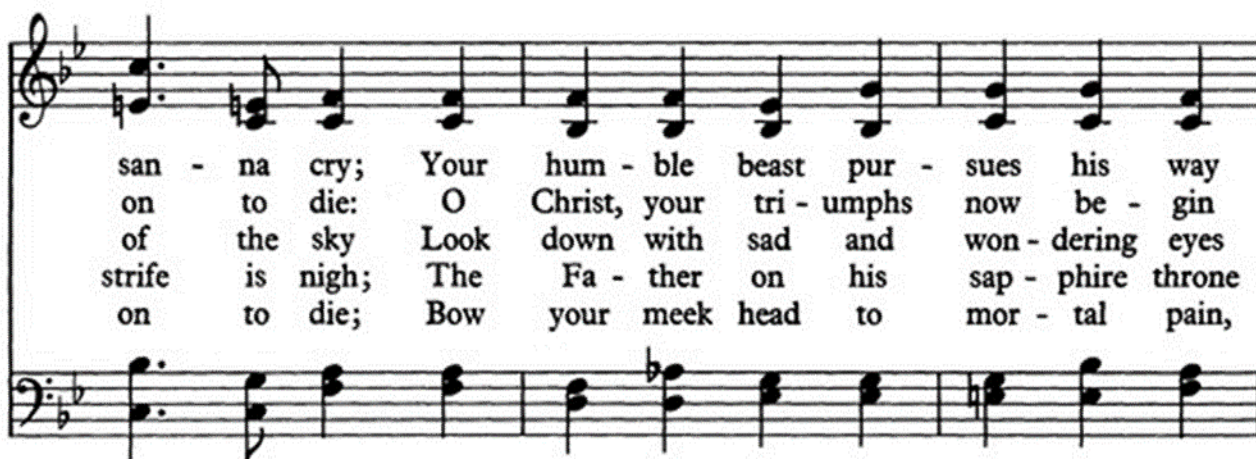
O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

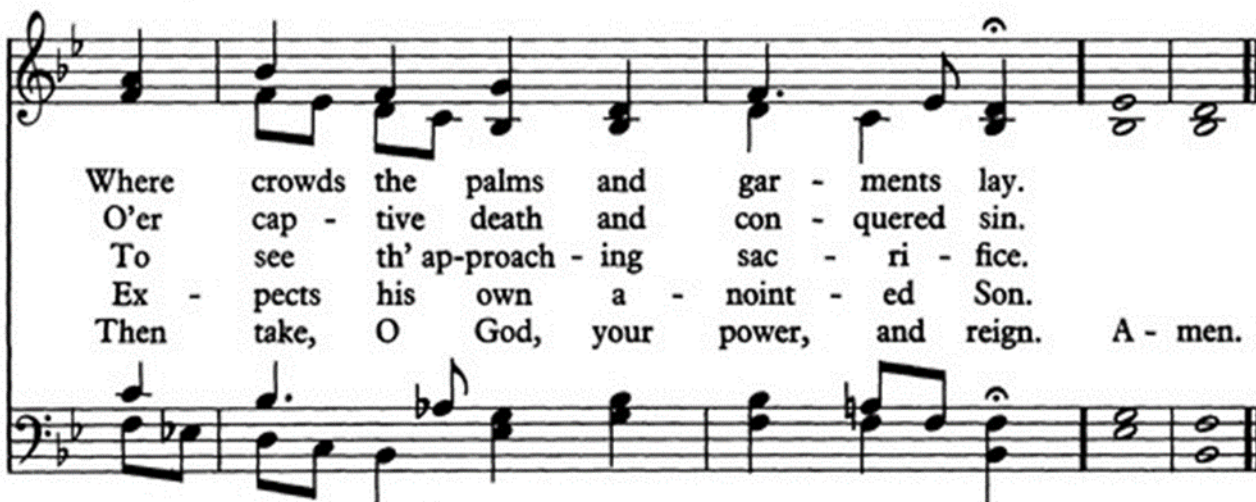
SENDING HYMN "Ride On! Ride On In Majesty!"



1. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the tribes ho -
2. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly pomp ride
3. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! The wing - ed squad - rons
4. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! Your last and fierc - est
5. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly pomp ride



san - na cry; Your hum - ble beast pur - sues his way
on to die: O Christ, your tri - umphs now be - gin
of the sky Look down with sad and won - dering eyes
strife is nigh; The Fa - ther on his sap - phire throne
on to die; Bow your meek head to mor - tal pain,



Where crowds the palms and gar - ments lay.
O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
To see th' ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
Ex - pects his own a - noint - ed Son.
Then take, O God, your power, and reign. A - men.