

March 28, 2021 ~ Palm/Passion Sunday

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

GATHERING SONG: No. 399 – “God Welcomes All”

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP:

They brought the colt of a donkey to Jesus;
and after throwing their cloaks on the colt,
they set Jesus on it.

As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

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, saying, **“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”**

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,
“Teacher, order your disciples to stop.”

He answered them:

“I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 199 – “Filled with Excitement”

Filled with excitement, all the happy throng
spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.
There in the distance they begin to see,
there on a donkey comes the Savior Christ.

(Refrain)

From every corner a thousand voices sing
praise to the One who comes in the name of God.
Our acclamation breaks forth in shouts of praise,
our triumphant song of joy:
“Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!
Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!”

As in that entrance to Jerusalem,
hosannas we will sing to Jesus Christ,
to our Redeemer who still calls today,
asks us to follow with our love and faith.

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON):

**God of heaven and earth,
we give you thanks for sending us Jesus Christ
in your name.
Even though we profess to follow him,
we confess that in times of trial we too often deny him.
Forgive us and heal us, we pray.
Help us to put our faith not in the princes of this world,
but only in the Prince of Peace.
in Jesus' name we pray.**

Time for Silent Confession

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 678 – “Our Darkness Is Never Darkness in Your Sight”

Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the daylight.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 118:19-23, 10-12 and Luke 19:29-44

SERMON: "Are We There Yet?"

SONG OF RESPONSE: "Beautiful City"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Declaration of Faith*

Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers that enslaved and degraded people, yet he made no use of power to protect himself. He healed those who were sick in body and mind, yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself. He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him above loyalty to family and country, yet he lived among them as a servant. Jesus taught with authority, challenging many time-honored customs and ideas, yet he submitted to humiliation and death without a word on his own behalf. He forgave sinners, yet he was counted among sinners.

We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority. He did what only God can do. We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness. When he lived as a servant and went humbly to his death the greatness that belongs only to God was manifest. In both his majesty and lowliness Jesus is the eternal Son of God, God with us.

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: No. 645 – "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above", v- 4

Thus all my toilsome way along
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;
both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*FINAL HYMN: No. 198 - "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
thy humble beast pursues its road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

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.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The hosts of angels in the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

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 power, and reign.

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 166 – "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days" – v 4

Abide with us, till when this life
of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

March 28, 2021

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