

AS WE GATHER

Today we are brought to the threshold of Holy Week. This was the day the Jewish people chose the Passover Lamb. How quickly things can change in a week! On this Palm Sunday, we see Jesus enter Jerusalem with palms, a symbol of victory, strewn in the road and being waved. Yet it was from that entry that Jesus went to show His true love—His passion—by dying on the cross on Friday. That death showed His love for you. By faith, we believe what Jesus did was for us. Everything about us—our sin, our eternal destination—changed that week because Jesus took the road from palms to passion. Receive what Jesus did for you by faith, knowing your home in heaven was paid for with the King’s ransom—His own blood.

PALM SUNDAY AND CONFIRMATION

From Palms to Passion: Jesus for You

April 13, 2025

PRELUDE, BELLS, WELCOME

ADULT CHOIR - "*Of Palms and Praise*"

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Music: Patti Drennan

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father,

C **who loved us unconditionally, even before the foundation of the world;**

P and of His + Son, Jesus,

C **the name above all names, who came to pay a King’s ransom for us;**

P and of the Holy Spirit,

C **who brings us to the faith and keeps us in the faith from the cradle to grave. Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

P Hosanna!

C **Hosanna to the Son of David!**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C **Hosanna in the highest!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P We confess before You, Lord, that we have sinned against You.

C **We have sinned not only against You but one another, with what we have thought, what we have said, and by what we have or have not done.**

P We unseat You and put ourselves on the throne that belongs only to You.

C **Our pride in these and all sins deserves Your punishment, yet today we approach Your throne of grace, asking for Your mercy.**

P So I ask you now: are you sincere in this, your confession before God, and promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life? If so, answer, “Yes, with the help of God.”

C **Yes, with the help of God.**

- P Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday to show His love for you at the cross. At the cross, He showed His passion for you by dying for your sins and paying the price we could not pay. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen! Thank You, Lord, for Your passion for us.**

KYRIE

- P In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For our Savior's willingness to ride into Jerusalem, let us give thanks to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For our Savior's humility in showing His real passion for all by dying five days later, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to grow in faith during this Holy Week, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, our gracious Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**

PSALM 118:19–29

- P Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
- C **This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank You that You have answered me and have become my salvation.**
- P The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
- C **This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- P This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- C **Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!**
- P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless You from the house of the LORD.
- C **The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!**
- P You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;
- C **You are my God; I will extol You.**
- P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
- C **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**

COLLECT

- P Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 32:36–39

The Lord will judge his people and have compassion on his servants when he sees their strength is gone and no one is left, slave or free.

He will say: "Now where are their gods, the rock they took refuge in, the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise up to help you! Let them give you shelter!

"See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:5–11

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:12–19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! " "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word.

Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him.

So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN “Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head” LSB 647

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s head,
You are her one foundation;
In You she trusts, before You bows,
And waits for Your salvation.
Built on this rock secure,
Your Church shall endure
Though all the world decay
And all things pass away.
O hear, O hear us, Jesus!

- 2 O Lord, let this Your little flock,
Your name alone confessing,
Continue in Your loving care,
True unity possessing.
Your sacraments, O Lord,
And Your saving Word
To us, Lord, pure retain.
Grant that they may remain
Our only strength and comfort.

3 Help us to serve You evermore
With hearts both pure and lowly;
And may Your Word, that light divine,
Shine on in splendor holy
That we repentance show,
In faith ever grow;
The pow'r of sin destroy
And evils that annoy.
O make us faithful Christians.

4 And for Your Gospel let us dare
To sacrifice all treasure;
Teach us to bear Your blessed cross,
To find in You all pleasure.
O grant us steadfastness
In joy and distress,
Lest we, Lord, You forsake.
Let us by grace partake
Of endless joy and gladness.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.

Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863-1924; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

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SERMON Red Letter Forgiving Challenge - *Forgiven People Become Forgiving People*

OFFERING

HYMN “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” LSB 685

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th sent.; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

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RITE OF CONFIRMATION

LSB pg. 272-274

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Almighty God, King of the universe, we come before You humbly asking that You would hear our prayers and answer them according to Your will.
- We bow before You and give unto You our worship and praise.
- C **We worship You not because we love You, but You loved us first and gave the King's ransom to pay our sin's debt. Thank You, Jesus, for loving us so much.**
- P We thank You for the working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives both to bring us to faith and keep us in the faith.
- C **Continue to open the eyes of our hearts and those around us, that we might see Your entry with palms for what it really was—Your passion to save us.**
- P As we near the day of Your return, we see a world in turmoil.
- C **Help us, Prince of Peace, amid all the chaos, to keep our eyes fixed on You.**
- P You are a benevolent King, known to grant requests.
- C **While You walked this earth, You granted the requests of the blind, the lame, the deaf, and even the widow at Nain, who did not ask You for anything, and You raised her son back to life.**
- P We lift up those who are sick and those who are suffering, [*including . . .*].
- C **Be with them, ease their pain, and bring relief from sicknesses through doctors, nurses, medicines, and miracles to accomplish Your will in their lives.**

- P You tell us in Your Word to remember those in authority. We lift up those who hold seats of power.
- C **For rulers in all places, high and low, north, south, east, and west, we ask that Your Spirit would guide them and Satan's power be thwarted in all places.**
- P For Your church in all places, that the Gospel would be powerfully proclaimed this week, and the Holy Spirit stir faith in the hearts of many,
- C **use us according to Your will, that others may see the life of Jesus in us.**
- P Before Your throne, almighty King, we lift these and all petitions of our hearts, trusting You will answer all according to Your will.
- C **We pray in the name of Jesus, who with the Father and Holy Spirit is one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

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**1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

HYMN "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" LSB 637

- 1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.
- 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
- 3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Text and music: Public domain

HYMN "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" LSB 442

- ref All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the King of Israel
And David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming,
Our King and Blessèd One. Refrain

2 The company of angels
Is praising You on high,
And we with all creation
In chorus make reply. Refrain

3 The multitude of pilgrims
With palms before You went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before You we present. Refrain

4 To You before Your passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To You, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise. Refrain

5 As You received their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing,
Our good and gracious King. Refrain

Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Melchoir Teschner, 1584-1635, alt.; setting: Lutheran Book of Worship: Select Hymns, 1985

Text and music: Public domain

HYMN “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” LSB 441

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

2 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.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on His sapphire throne
Awaits His own anointed Son.

5 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 pow'r and reign.

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.

Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buck der Geistlichen Melodien, Hamburg, 1690, alt.; setting: William H. Monk, 1823-89, alt. Text and music: Public domain

HYMN “Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior” LSB 619

1 Thy body, giv’n for me, O Savior,
Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever,
By them my hungry soul is fed. Refrain

ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

2 With Thee, Lord, I am now united;
I live in Thee and Thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted
It finds its only joy in Thee. Refrain

3 Who can condemn me now? For surely
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely
With Jesus I to heaven rise. Refrain

4 Though death may threaten with disaster,
It cannot rob me of my cheer;
For He who is of death the master
With aid and comfort e’er is near. Refrain

5 My heart has now become Thy dwelling,
O blessèd, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling,
Shall live in joy eternally. Refrain

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, Leipzig, 1756; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION - Hebrews 13:20-21

P May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through + Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

HYMN “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” LSB 443

- 1 Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

- 2 From Olivet they followed
Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving
And chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
Rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children
Should on His bidding wait.

- 3 “Hosanna in the highest!”
That ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heav’n our King.
Oh, may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice!

Text: Jeannette Threlfall, 1821–80, alt.

Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, Wurttemberg, 1784; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.

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