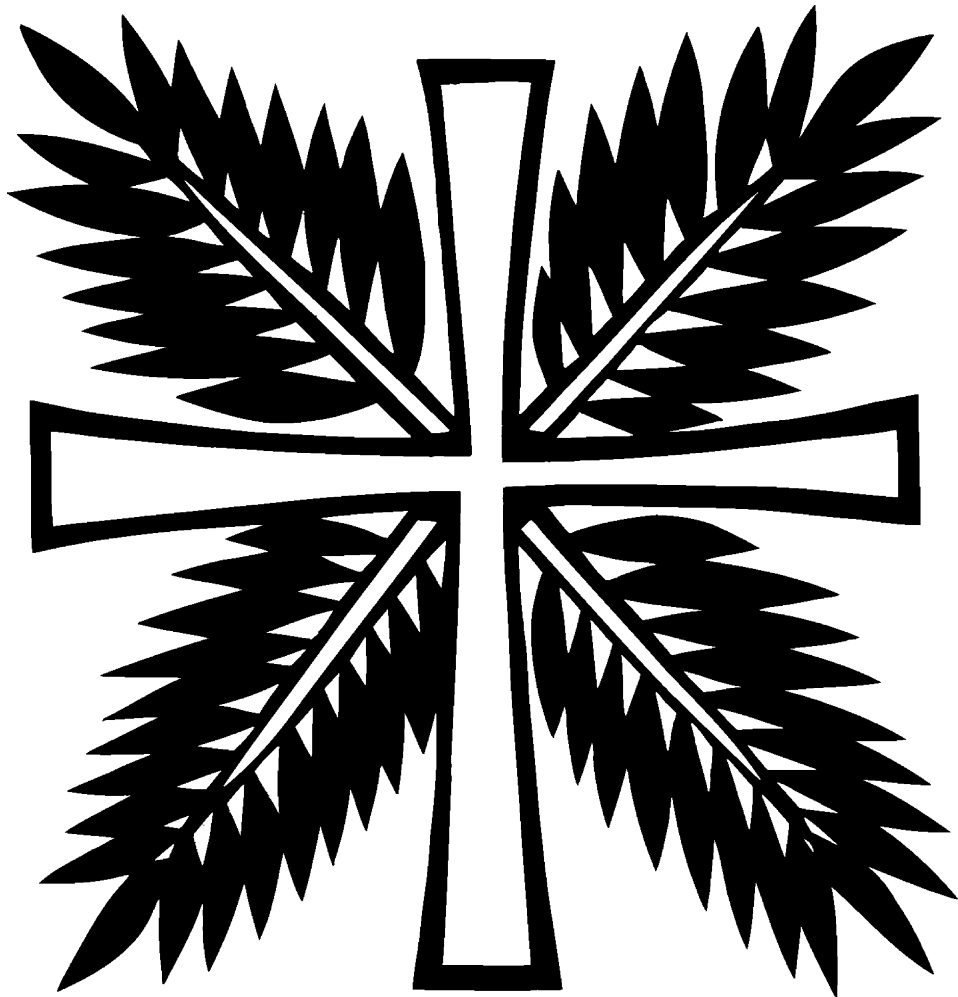


Dennison & Vang Lutheran Parish

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Sunday, April 2, 2023



GATHERING – Procession with Palms

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna in the highest!

(repeated 3 times)

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”

⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵“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.” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Blessing of Palms

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

Let us pray... **Amen**

Let us go forth in peace,

In the name of Christ. Amen

Processional Hymn – 344 - "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor

to you, Redeemer, King,

to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

The company of angels
is praising you on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. *Refrain*

To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

Their praises you accepted;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Welcome

Children's Message

Offering/"Noisy Offering" (*proceeds from the noisy offering will go to the Vang "Community Shelf" fund*)

WORD

Prayer of the Day

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the salvation that comes through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray...

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ. May we die with him and rise with him, claiming the true life which comes from you, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

“Were You There?” (Hymn 353, vs. 1)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 27: 11-54

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew...

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus was placed before the governor, who questioned him: “Are you the ‘King of the Jews’?”

Jesus said, “If you say so.”

But when the accusations rained down from the high priests and religious leaders, he said nothing. Pilate asked him, “Do you hear that long list of accusations? Aren’t you going to say something?”

Jesus kept silence—not a word from his mouth. The governor was impressed, really impressed.

It was an old custom during the Feast for the governor to pardon a single prisoner named by the crowd. At the time, they had the infamous Barabbas in prison. With the crowd before him, Pilate said, “Which prisoner do you want me to pardon: Barabbas, or Jesus the so-called Christ?” He knew it was through sheer spite that they had turned Jesus over to him.

While court was still in session, Pilate’s wife sent him a message: “Don’t get mixed up in judging this noble man. I’ve just been through a long and troubled night because of a dream about him.”

Meanwhile, the high priests and religious leaders had talked the crowd into asking for the pardon of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus.

The governor asked, "Which of the two do you want me to pardon?"

They said, "Barabbas!"

"Then what do I do with Jesus, the so-called Christ?"

They all shouted, "Nail him to a cross! Crucify him!"

He objected, "But for what crime?"

But they yelled all the louder, "Nail him to a cross! Crucify him!"

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere and that a riot was imminent, he took a basin of water and washed his hands in full sight of the crowd, saying, "I'm washing my hands of responsibility for this man's death. From now on, it's in your hands. You're judge and jury."

Then he pardoned Barabbas. But he had Jesus whipped, and then handed over for crucifixion.

"Were You There?" (Hymn 353, vs. 2)

The soldiers assigned to the governor took Jesus into the governor's palace and got the entire brigade together for some fun. They stripped him and dressed him in a red toga. They plaited a crown from branches of a thornbush and set it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand for a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mocking reverence: "Bravo, King of the Jews!" they said. "Bravo!" Then they spit on him and hit him on the head with the stick. When they had had their fun, they took off the toga and put his own clothes back on him. Then they proceeded out to the crucifixion.

Along the way they came on a man from Cyrene named Simon and made him carry Jesus' cross. Arriving at Golgotha, the place they call "Skull Hill," they offered him a mild painkiller (a mixture of wine and myrrh), but when he tasted it he wouldn't drink it.

After they had finished nailing him to the cross and were waiting for him to die, they whiled away the time by throwing dice for his clothes. Above his head they had posted the criminal charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Along with him, they also crucified two criminals, one to his right, the other to his left. People passing along the road jeered, shaking their heads in mock lament: "You bragged that you could tear down the Temple and then rebuild it in three days—so show us! Save yourself! If you're really God's Son, come down from that cross!"

"Were You There?" (Hymn 353, vs. 3)

The high priests, along with the religion scholars and leaders, were right there mixing it up with the rest of them, having a great time poking fun at him: “He saved others—he can’t save himself! King of Israel, is he? Then let him get down from that cross. We’ll all become believers then! He was so sure of God—well, let him rescue his ‘Son’ now—if he wants him! He did claim to be God’s Son, didn’t he?”

From noon to three, the whole earth was dark. Around midafternoon Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

Some bystanders who heard him said, “He’s calling for Elijah.” One of them ran and got a sponge soaked in sour wine and lifted it on a stick so he could drink. The others joked, “Don’t be in such a hurry. Let’s see if Elijah comes and saves him.”

But Jesus, again crying out loudly, breathed his last.

At that moment, the Temple curtain was ripped in two, top to bottom. There was an earthquake, and rocks were split in pieces. The captain of the guard and those with him, when they saw the earthquake and everything else that was happening, were scared to death. They said, “This has to be the Son of God!”

(a moment of silence for reflection)

Scripture Reflection and Prayer

“Ah, Holy Jesus (Hymn 349, vs. 1,2,5)

MEAL

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

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion worship notes – Following Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, which drew joyous shouts from a jubilant crowd, God's word for this day speaks of Christ emptying himself of power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable. We are invited into the suffering of Jesus in the reading of Jesus' passion. With Christ we lament his suffering and all human suffering, and await God's promise of new life. Holy Week will continue with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday.