



Sunday of the Passion/Palm April 13, 2025

Traditionally, Palm Sunday was commemorated in worship as a day of pomp and circumstance, celebrating a conquering king's triumphant entry into the Capitol. The focus of the day was on waving palm branches and singing Hosannas. We will still wave branches and sing Hosannas, but the intention of worship today is to draw us into the story of Jesus' last days. We call this story the "Passion of Jesus" as a reminder of the extremes Jesus endured to express the intensity of God's passionate love for us.

PRELUDE

Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty! (arr. Jeffrey Blersch)

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Luke 19

Narrator 1 ¹After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying,

Jesus "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'"

Narrator 2 ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"
³⁴They said,

C "The Lord needs it."

Narrator 1 ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they

set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As 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, ³⁸saying,

C **"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"**

Narrator 2 ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered,

Jesus "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *All Glory Laud and Honor (ELW 344)*

Refrain **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 Blessed One. Refrain**

**2. The company of angels are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals 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. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. Refrain**

WELCOME

Luke 22

Narrator 1 Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ²The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. ³Then Satan entered into Judas

called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OUR OFFERINGS ARE GATHERED

Our gratitude is expressed in gifts for the church's mission and the world's need. Music invites us to reflect. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Amazing Grace (Southern Harmony)
Mark White, bagpipe

OFFERTORY HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat (ELW 465)

Refrain

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,

may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C **Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Narrator 2 ⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying,

Jesus “Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.”

Narrator 2 ⁹They asked him,

C **“Where do you want us to make preparations for it?”**

Jesus ¹⁰“Listen,”

Narrator 2 he said to them,

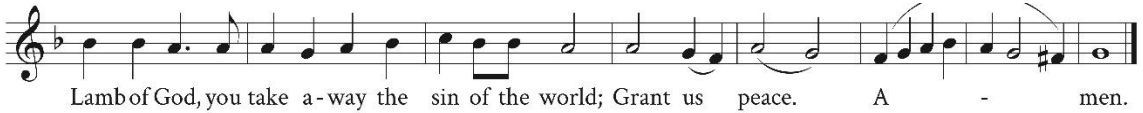
Jesus “when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, “The teacher asks you, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?””¹²He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.”

Narrator 1 ¹³So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

HYMN

Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ,
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sing of the world; have mer-cy up - un us. O Christ,



MEAL

P ¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him.

¹⁵He said to them,

Jesus "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

P ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

Jesus "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

P ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

P ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

Jesus "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²²For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!"

P ²³Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,

and abounding in steadfast love.

C Let us receive the bread of life and cup of salvation.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We go to the table to encounter the body and blood of the living Christ in bread and wine, through which faith is nourished and sins are forgiven. Please proceed to the altar rail as directed by the usher. The Communion bread (Schar gluten-free bread) is free of gluten, wheat, dairy, egg, and nuts. You may take a grape juice-filled cup from the center of the tray or a wine-filled cup from the Communion tray. Afterward, cups are placed in a basket as you return to your seat. If you are unable to come to the Communion Table, please let an usher know. A Eucharistic Minister is available to bring Communion to you in the pew.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Pie Jesu (John Rutter)

Brian Niebuhr, cello

Erin Niebuhr, piano

HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living (ELW 339)

**Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suffering, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;**

**thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.**

Narrator 2 ²⁴A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But he said to them,

Jesus “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸“You are those who have stood by me in my trials; ²⁹and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ³¹“Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, ³²but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

Narrator 2 ³³And he said to him,

C “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death”

Narrator 2 ³⁴Jesus said,

Jesus “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me. “

Narrator 2 ³⁵Jesus said to them,

Jesus “When I sent you out without a purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?”

Narrator 2 They said,

C “No, not a thing.”

Narrator 2 ³⁶He said them,

Jesus “But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷For I tell you, this

scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."

Narrator 2 ³⁸They said,

C "Lord, look, here are two swords."

Narrator 2 He replied,

Jesus "It is enough."

Narrator 1 ³⁹He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he said to them,

Jesus "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

Narrator 1 ⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stones throw, knelt down, and prayed,

Jesus ⁴²"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

Narrator 1 [⁴³then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.] ⁴⁵When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, ⁴⁶and he said to them,

Jesus "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane (ELW 347, stanza 1)

**Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

THE PRAYERS

P Lord Jesus, we marvel at your humility,

C when you enter the capital city as the King, on a donkey;

P we marvel that you don't make a worldly show of your power,

C but you choose to win people by your humble love for them;

P we marvel at the way your love reaches out to the unlovely,

C as well as the popular and the rich and important people;

P we marvel that you value people for who they are,

C and not for where they live, or what they own or the type of work they do.

P We marvel that you allow people to turn against you

C and do their worst to you;

P we marvel that in public you allow yourself to be nailed up in disgrace on a cross

C to take all the blame for our sin;

P we marvel that you bother to listen to us day and night as we come to you in prayer,

C and we thank you for listening to us when we pray for those who are sick, especially those who are lonely, and those afraid of life.

P Bless us with a humble love like yours

C so that we don't need to try to impress people.

P Teach us to listen to them and help them in their special needs,

C as you do for us.

P Teach us to trust you with all of our concerns and needs of body, mind, and spirit.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

C Amen.

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This? (ELW 666, stanza 1)

What wondrous love is this,

O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

that caused the Lord of bliss

to bear the dreadful curse

for my soul, for my soul,

to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

Narrator 2 ⁴⁷While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one, of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him,

Jesus "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

Narrator 2 ⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

C "Lord, should we strike with the sword?"

Narrator 2 ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹But Jesus said,

Jesus "No more of this!"

Narrator 2 And he touched his ear and healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, Jesus "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

Narrator 1 ⁵⁴Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

⁵⁶Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

Women "This man also was with him."

Narrator 1 ⁵⁷But he denied it, saying,

C "Woman, I do not know him."

Narrator 1 ⁵⁸A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

Men "you also are one of them."

Narrator 1 But Peter said,

C "Man, I am not!"

Narrator 2 ⁵⁹Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰But Peter said,

C "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"

Narrator 2 At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times."

⁶²And he went out and wept bitterly. ⁶³Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; ⁶⁴they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

C "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?"

Narrator 1 ⁶⁵They kept heaping many other insults on him. ⁶⁶When day came, the

assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. ⁶⁷They said,

C **“If you are the Messiah, tell us.”**

Narrator 1 He replied,

Jesus “If I tell you, you will not believe; ⁶⁸and if I question you, you will not answer.

⁶⁹But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

Narrator 1 ⁷⁰All of them asked,

C **“Are you, then, the Son of God?”**

Narrator 1 He said to them,

Jesus “You say that I am.”

Narrator 1 ⁷¹Then they said,

C **“What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!”**

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus (ELW 349, Stanza 1& 2)

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.**

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.**

Luke 23

Narrator 3 ¹Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. ²They began to accuse him, saying,

C **“We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”**

Narrator 4 ³Then Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He answered,

Jesus “You say so.”

Narrator 4 ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for an

accusation against this man.”⁵But they were insistent and said,

C **“He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”**

Narrator 3 ⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. ⁹He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Narrator 4 ¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶I will therefore have him flogged and release him.” ¹⁸Then they all shouted out together,

C **“Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!”**

Narrator 3 ¹⁹(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹but they kept shouting,

C **“Crucify, crucify him!”**

Narrator 4 ²²A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” ²³But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted.

Sit

Narrator 3 ²⁵He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. ²⁶As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Narrator 4 ³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [³⁴Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

C “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”

Narrator 3 ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying,

C “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

Narrator 4 ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying,

C “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we

are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”

Narrator 4 ⁴²Then he said,

**C Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (Repeat)**

Narrator 4 ⁴³[Jesus] replied,

Jesus "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Narrator 4 ⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

Jesus "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Narrator 3 Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

C "Certainly this man was innocent."

Narrator 3 ⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Narrator 4 ⁵⁰Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, ⁵¹had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. ⁵⁴It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

HYMN

Were You There? (ELW 353)

All **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

All **Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Women **Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Men **Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

All **Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

REFLECTION

Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion; let your Spirit now endow me for meditation.

*Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish of your suff'ring, pain, and death,
that I may not perish.*

We depart in silence.

Lead Pastor: Erin Heidelberger

Associate Pastor: Andrew Kitzing

Livestream: Brian Niebuhr

Musicians: bagpipes, Mark White; cello, Brian Niebuhr; piano, Erin Niebuhr

Readers:

Jesus: Wendy Bonaiuto

Narrator 1: Sandy Latshaw

Narrator 2: Gene Cotter

Narrator 3: Eliana Genis Frank

Narrator 4: Matt Peters

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