

Palm/Passion Sunday | March 28th, 2021 | Communion Milestone (11:00)

9:00 Readers: Bonnie Hartwig, Allie Schley, Les Hartwig

11:00 Readers: Layla Sycks, Allie Schley, Emma Mason

Online Readers: Pastor Ally + Pastor Tim

Announcements

- Today is Palm Sunday -or- Passion Sunday. Either way, it's the beginning of Holy Week. Today we start the final leg of our journey to the cross.
 - It's also a day of celebration as we lift up those who have completed the communion milestone class!
- *Include Holy Week Updates...let the journey begin!*
 - Palm/Passion Sunday service will be in-person at 9:00 and online at our regular weekly times
 - Maundy Thursday services will be at 11:30 and 7:00. This service will not be online
 - Good Friday services will be at 3:00 and 7:00. This service will not be online.
 - Easter Sunday services will be at 9:00 and 11:00. This service will also be online at our regular weekly times
 - RSVPs are a *must* for our Easter services

***Call to Worship**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest!** (*repeat*)

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.

Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.

Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, who brings us the Kingdom of God!

[Chorus]

*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, our King and Blessed One. [chorus]*

*The company of angels are praising you on high;
Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. [chorus]*

***Processional Gospel | Mark 11:1-11**

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples and 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. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then 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.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***ProceSSIONAL Hymn** | *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* v.3-5

ELW 344

[Chorus]

*All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. [chorus]*

*To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. [chorus]*

*Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
Great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. [chorus]*

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Children's Message

Invitation to Experience the Passion

Today begins with a palm procession, as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. And now, the tone of our worship will change dramatically as we enter into the story of Jesus' passion and death. Because this story is so central to our faith, we hear it twice during this Holy Week. Though Jesus is obedient even unto death on the cross, he is

exalted by God. We gather to remember his offering for the life of the world, and to be fed by his life-giving mercy. I invite you to enter into this holy time, this Holy Week, and to experience the journey to the cross. I invite you to enter into and experience this message of love -- both throughout the duration of this week, and right now...

The Passion according to St. Mark

1: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

3: It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him;

2: for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

3: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them.

1: When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money.

2: So Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

1: On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, at evening Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their place and were eating, Jesus said,

3: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, the one who is eating with me."

1: They began to be distressed and to say to him and one another, "Surely, not I?"

3: Jesus said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me.

2: For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

1: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

3: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

1: Jesus said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

2: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

1: And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written,

2: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

3: Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

1: Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

3: But Peter said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

1: And all of them said the same.

Hymn | *Go to Dark Gethsemane* v.1 ELW 347

*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.*

3: They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

2: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.

1: And Jesus said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

2: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

3: He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

1: Jesus came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?"

2: Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

3: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

2: And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

3: Jesus came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

1: Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

2: Immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

3: Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

1: So when he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.

2: Then they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

3: But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

2: Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?"

3: Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

Hymn | *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* v.1 ELW 351

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,

Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;

O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!

Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

2: All of them deserted him and fled.

1: A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth.

2: They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

3: They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.

1: 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.

2: Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none.

1: For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree.

3: Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, “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.’”

2: But even on this point their testimony did not agree.

1: Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”

2: But he was silent and did not answer.

1: Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

2: Jesus said, “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.’”

3: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?”

1: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

Hymn | *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* v.3 ELW 351

*What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
For this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for thee.*

3: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

1: When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”

2: But Peter denied it, saying, “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.” And he went out into the forecourt.

3: Then the cock crowed.

2: And the servant girl, on seeing him, began again to say to bystanders, “This man is one of them.”

3: But again he denied it.

1: Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.”

2: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know this man you are talking about.”

1: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

3: And he broke down and wept.

3: As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and the scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

2: Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.”

3: Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

1: Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.”

3: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

2: Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked.

3: Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.

1: So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

2: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.

3: But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

1: Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

2: They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

3: Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?”

2: But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!”

1: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

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?

3: Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort.

2: And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.

1: And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

2: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

3: 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.

2: 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.

3: Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).

1: And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.

2: And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

1: 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."

The assembly stands.

2: And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

1: Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

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

2: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Hymn | *Were You There* v.3 ELW 353

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?

1: When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

2: At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

3: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

2: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, and put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

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

Ten seconds of silence.

3: And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

1: Now when the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

2: 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 rock.

1: He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

3: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn | *Were You There* v.5 ELW 353

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?

***Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***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.

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

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

[11:00 | **Communion Milestone**]

Final Reflection

This morning has been a rollercoaster ride. From the triumphal entry to the crucifixion, we've gone from a celebratory high to an excruciating low. We started with palms waving, shouts of "Hosanna!" ringing -- and we ended with women weeping, shouts of "Crucify him!" coming from the crowd.

My dear siblings in Christ, we are invited to participate in this story. We are invited to sing “Hosanna!” today, but the journey doesn’t stop here. It continues. And we are invited to participate in every part of it.

On Maundy Thursday, we remember the last Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples. On Good Friday, we remember how we, the Roman government, the Jewish leaders, and the crowd nailed Jesus to that cross. And on Easter morning, when we remember again that we are Easter people -- always redeemed, always healed, and always made whole by and through the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

You are invited to experience and participate in these holiest of days. Hear again the story of God’s people, which is our story. Experience the power, the holiness, the beauty of this story. Remember again that Jesus loves us so much that he died for us, and that in dying, he gave us the promise of new life. Come and see, as we continue this journey by following Jesus to dark Gethsemane.

Sending Hymn | *Go to Dark Gethsemane* v.2-3 ELW 347

*Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.*

*Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.*

***Dismissal**

Today we have cheered you on as our champion and hailed you as our hero.

Forgive us tomorrow when our enthusiasm wanes.

Today we have entrusted you to rescue us from our pitiful circumstances.

Forgive us on Tuesday when we decide we can take care of ourselves.

Today we have made you the centerpiece of our very existence.

Forgive us on Wednesday when we forget to remember who you are.

Today we have called out to you loudly by name.

Forgive us on Thursday when we pretend that we've never met you.

Today we have stared at you with the star struck eyes of fans and groupies.

Forgive us on Friday when we avert our eyes because it's too painful to see you on the cross.

Today we have expressed our unsuppressed hopefulness in the future you have in store for us.

Forgive us on Saturday when we believe all is lost.

Today we have been boldly certain of the earthly ways you will redeem us.

Restore us on Sunday when we are startled and awed by your rising.

May God bless you and keep you on this Holy Week journey.

Thanks be to God!