



“PLACES OF THE PASSION: BETHPHAGE”

***Sunday, March 28, 2021 9:00AM
Worship Service***

AS WE GATHER

In this Places of the Passion service for Palm Sunday, we go to Bethphage, the place where the ride into Jerusalem on a donkey begins for Jesus. It is here where we discover that Jesus is a humble King who serves as he heads toward the cross.

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Bell Peal in G”

arr. by Bisbee

WELCOME

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

“Were You There?”

arr. by Ingram

OPENING 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!

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Stand

INVOCATION

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C To see the depths of his love.

P To behold the gift of his forgiveness!

C To gaze upon the heights of his grace.

P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C We walk with Jesus as he rides a donkey.

P He begins in Bethphage and makes his way to Jerusalem.

C He does it for us and for our salvation!

P Faithful Lord, with me abide.

C I shall follow where you guide!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zechariah 9:9–10

P The Old Testament Reading is from Zechariah, chapter 9.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall speak peace to the nations;

his rule shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Merciful and mighty Father, you know us well. We are quick to speak of faith, but slow to live it out. We shout “hosanna” as Jesus approaches, as did the people of Jerusalem, but we do not want him coming too close to us, not close enough to really see—

C Our greed and our grasping.

P Our pride and our pretense.

C Our envy and our strife.

P Our hard hearts and lackluster prayers.

C Our willful disobedience and ongoing sin.

P Our harsh words and condemning judgments.

C Our backbiting and badmouthing.

P Our lame excuses.

C Our fickle faith. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ’s love is greater.)

P Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That’s why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

C **I shall follow where you guide!**

Sit

HYMN of PRAISE

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB 343

1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

ref Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God’s Word!

2 God’s people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: Refrain

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in hand, gathered to greet your Son when he came into the City of David, grant that we may hail him as our King and walk with him in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 2:5–11

P The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 2.

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the

name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front 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, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED

C 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 of the DAY

“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.

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SERMON

Stand

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Onward in Christ's footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above. Full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father's bidding. And so we pray: Lord Jesus, you are the King of Zechariah's vision, and on this Palm Sunday, we worship, honor, and bless you, saying—

C Hosanna in the highest!

P Lord Jesus, no other king would show up to conquer his enemies, humbly riding on the foal of a donkey. No other king would break the power of death and rob the grave by the brokenness of the cross. No other king could defeat evil and tyranny by shedding his blood. That's why we say—

C Hosanna in the highest!

- P** Lord Jesus, no other king would come not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many—a group of rebels and sinners like us. No other king would come so humbly, so lovingly, so kindly. That's why we shout it out—
- C Hosanna in the highest!**
- P** Lord Jesus, you are our King, the King of glory, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. You are our Monarch of mercy, our Governor of grace and our the Prince of Peace. Great is our rejoicing, for you have come to us, righteous and victorious, loving and sovereign. That's why we celebrate—
- C Hosanna in the highest!**
- P** Lord Jesus, by the riches of your grace, continue to free us from sin, selfishness and worthless idols. By the power of the Gospel, enable us to live with hope and as agents of redemption until the Day you return to finish making all things new.
- C Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- C 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.**

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

- P** Jesus Christ, who in love gave His life for us, invites us to share in the meal He has given to His disciples with His words, "Do this in remembrance of Me."
- C We remember His love for us in His death and we remember and celebrate His rising from the grave for our salvation.**
- P** Jesus says, "Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven."
- C We publicly acknowledge You, Jesus, as our Savior from sin and we come before You now in oneness of faith and spirit to receive Your grace in this meal.**
- P** Let us then approach the Table of the Lord with confidence so that we may receive mercy, grace and strength to live as His people.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do 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 testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.**

Sit

DISTRIBUTION 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: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

LSB 623

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
- 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv’n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav’n.
- 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.
- 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven’s high and holy feast.

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BENEDICTION

- [P]** Jesus invites us to walk with him to Bethphage and then into Jerusalem, places of great suffering and places of great love! We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory!
- [C]** **Let us ever walk with Jesus.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

LSB 685 st. 2

- 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.

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