**Palm Sunday Service**

**+** indicates you are invited to make the sign of the cross.

Congregation speaks the **Bold** text.

Opening

O Lord, open my lips,

**and my mouth shall proclaim your praise**.

**Glory to the Father, + and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Greeting

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of the Day

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

Word

First Reading: Zachariah 9:9-11

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (read in unison)

**118:1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!**

**118:2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."**

**118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.**

**118:20 This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**

**118:21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**

**118:22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

**118:23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**118:24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**118:25 Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!**

**118:26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

**118:27 The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.**

**118:28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.**

**118:29 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. 9Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

21:1 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 21:2 saying 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. 21:3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." 21:4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 21:5 "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." 21:6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 21:7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 21:8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 21:9 The 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!" 21:10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" 21:11 The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Apostles Creed (read in unison)

**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.**

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

Prayers

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, brining the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you –

 For the sustaining goodness of your creation….

 For the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness….

 For the gifts of relationship with others….

 For the communion of faith in your church….

*Other thanksgivings may be offered in silence at this time.*

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray for –

 For those who govern nations of the world….

 For the people in countries ravaged by strife, warfare, and disease….

 For all who work for peace, international harmony, and healing….

 For all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction….

 For the church of Jesus Christ in every land….

*Other intercessions may be offered in silence at this time.*

God of healing, we especially pray during this time for all those who are sick from the Coronavirus, those who are grieving the death of a loved one to the virus, those who work in healthcare and medicine seeking to provide healing and comfort to those sick and at risk, leaders of the world and the church who must make difficult decisions for the sake of others, and for all those for whom this time of isolation is difficult. Remind us always that your Holy Spirit is with us and never forsakes us during times of distress, uncertainty, or trouble. We ask all this and more in the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*During this time of worship, we would normally collect the offering. Thank you to everyone who contributes to Lutheran Church of the Savior with electronic giving. Though we can’t at this time gather for public worship the missions and needs of the church continue. If you are able please consider mailing a check for your regular offering to the church office. Thank you for your continued prayer and generosity.*

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together as our Lord Jesus taught us to pray saying…

**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.**

Benediction

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God**.

*Scripture passages are used from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*Liturgy parts from Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.*

*Liturgy parts from Sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright 2011 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*