

PRINCE OF PEACE CHURCH

Palm Sunday

March 28, 2021

**HOSANNA! BLESSED IS THE ONE
WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!**

Mark 11.9b

Holy Whole

Palm Sunday March 28, 2021

Prelude Welcome

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem Mark 11.1-11

11 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² 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. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, *(Wave those green branches, hold your plants high! And shout it out together:)*

"Hosanna!

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

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

11 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.

Hymn: ELW 525 You Are Holy! Per Harling b.1948; DU AR HELIC PM; copyright 1990 Ton Vis
Production

You are holy, you are whole. You are always evermore than we ever understand. You are always at hand. Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead. You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord! Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

We have seen that the stories of Jesus' healing ministry are filled words *and* deeds. When Jesus rides into Jerusalem, the people had hopes that Jesus would heal them from the oppressive system of Roman rule that they were living under. We know that the healing of Jesus was not confined to that moment in history, but even now Jesus offers a new way of life that is compassion for all, especially "the least."

As we head into the events of Holy Week, we have to look at sin. The healing that is forgiveness of sin and that sets us free to forgive ourselves and others is anchored and based in the events that we celebrate this week. The parade of compassionate power we celebrate today is united with another healing story that involves a very different parade. On this day we glorify God for beautiful words *and* works of wholeness and we ask for the courage to share that treasured beauty with others. We know there will still be pain, but we also know love will win.

**Vessels, holy and whole, broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul. Healer, come. (Sung twice, on the second time, all sing)**

Leader: Beach glass begins as something whole and yet discarded. As it is tumbled by the sea, it is broken and polished until it becomes a treasured "mineral gem." We do not accept that suffering is necessary or God-given, but we accept that suffering is a part of life. When pain comes and brokenness enters our lives, Jesus reaches out to touch and remind us of the Treasure that we *all* are—worthy of new life in the midst of hopelessness.

**Vessels, holy and whole, Broken, needing the One.
Open, body and soul. Healer, come.**

Prayer of Confession

We have approached confession each week in Lent by being open about our brokenness in order to begin the process of healing. Along the way we have acknowledged our need to restore our own Holy Vessels while attending to our role in the healing of the community and the world. On this day, we remember how hard it is to move from thinking to doing.

Let us pray:

Forgiving God,

We have opened ourselves to healing and sometimes it is easier to pray nice prayers, than to do the hard work of putting into action what needs to happen.

Help us remember the sacred nature of the holy vessels that we are, fragile and so easily shattered and yet capable of transformation.

Help us to see ourselves as you see us.

Help us to believe in our ability to change and heal as you believe in us.

We acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew your Holy Vessels: ourselves and our health: physical, emotional, and spiritual; the health of our communities, and the health of the beautiful planet on which we live.

Let us pray:

Help us, Healer.

Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia.

Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for others and for the world you so love.

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Silence

Vessels, holy and whole, Broken, needing the One.

Open, body and soul. Healer, come.

Word of Assurance and Forgiveness:

Throughout the season of Lent, we are contemplating the symbol of broken glass—sea (or beach) glass to be specific. Time and adversity make something beautiful out of what was once seen as ordinary and broken. It becomes a transformed and precious piece.

Jesus attended to those considered ordinary, broken, even those deemed unworthy.

Jesus attends to us.

Know this: Know this: You are never alone in the struggle.

No. Matter. What.

Jesus is on the journey with us.

Life's parade is not passing you by.

You are part of this Body of Christ, a community seeking healing.

For you, for me, for all.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen.

Prayer of the day: 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.**

The Word

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Psalm 31.9-16

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;
**my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹²I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around!—
**as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.**

¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, “You are my God.”

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

Gospel Matthew 9: 1-8

And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town. And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." Then some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Stand up, take your bed and go to your home." And he stood up and went to his home. When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Hymn of the Day ELW 335 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

ELW 335 Fanny Crosby 1820-1915; William Doane, 1832-1915; Near the Cross 7676 and refrain

1. Jesus keep me near the cross,
There's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain. *Ref.*

3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. *Ref.*

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. *Ref.*

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait
hoping trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. *Ref.*

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

The Peace Announcements

Preparing for Holy Week

We would like to remember those affected by CoVid on Good Friday.
Please send in names by Wednesday. Thank you!

Easter Garden

Time to celebrate and give thanks or honor loved ones past and present!
Send in your dedications please list who they are for and who they are
given by. You may choose “ in memory,” “ in thanksgiving,” or “ in honor of
”. Let us know if you are bringing a plant or if you would like us to purchase
them for you. You may use the donate button or send a check in the amount
of \$25 for a lily or \$15 for a spring bulb. We need time to prepare the list so
please send no later than April 1. You may drop off your plant on Saturday
April 3 from 11am-Noon. Please let us know if you would like to take your
plant home. Thank you!

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday April 1, 5PM on Face Book

Good Friday April 2 7PM in person or online

*Easter Sunday April 4 9:30 AM in person or
on our facebook page*

Prayers of the Church

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In creation, life springs from death.

Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer; grant respite and renewal.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son.

We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith, to trust the promises of baptism and, with them to look for the resurrection of the dead.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Now go with confidence that, though shattered, we are held.

Remember you are what God made you to be:

created in Christ Jesus for good works,

chosen as holy and beloved,

freed to serve your neighbor.

May God bless you to be a blessing. In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Christ the Life of All the Living" 339 text Ernst Homburg, 160-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt; music Das Grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687 ; Jesu, Meines Lebens Leben 87878877

1. 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.

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

3. 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.

The Dismissal: Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Thanks for joining us!

"Worship series design and original music ©Worship Design Studio, used with permission. www.worshipdesignstudio.com/vessels"
Liturgical music copyright 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under One license number A-700164. All rights reserved. Liturgical texts are reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress; Scripture quotations are 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. Used by permission. All rights reserved; © Words & Music: Public Domain For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI copyright license #11255979 CCLI streaming license # CSPPL073911