



You are welcome here!
**We are disciples of Jesus, growing
in Faith, Hope, and Love**

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Worship Times

Sunday 10:15 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm



Pastor

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday

Gathering

✠INTRODUCTION

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

✠OPENING

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna in the highest.**

✠BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The members of the congregation raise their branches.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through your Son Jesus Christ. When he entered Jerusalem in triumph he was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along the 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.

C **Amen.**

✠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*

✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

Word

✠FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 50:4-9a

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience in the midst of persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

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?

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✠ **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 31:9-16**

⁹Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,

a dismay to my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;**

I am as useless as a broken pot.

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.**

I have said, “You are my God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;**

save me in your steadfast love.”

✠ **SECOND LESSON – Philippians 2:5-11**

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus’ humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✠ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)**

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

✠ **GOSPEL – Matthew 21:1-11**

Jesus enters Jerusalem

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

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."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹The 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!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

✠ SERMON

✠ HYMN OF THE DAY – My Song is Love Unknown (ELW #343 vs. 1-3)

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|--|--|
| 1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die? | 2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend! |
| 3 Sometimes we strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
and for his death we thirst and cry. | |

✠ APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 105)

P With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

C 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.**

✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P God of mercy, awaken your church to new proclamations of your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of your redemption. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of mercy, quiet the earth where it trembles and shakes. Protect vulnerable ecosystems, threatened habitats, and endangered species. Prosper the work of scientists, engineers, and researchers who find ways to restore creation to health and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of mercy, drive away fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who seek liberation for the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those who are in prison and those who face execution. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of mercy, send your saving help to all who suffer abuse, insult, discrimination, or contempt. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying. Bring peace to those suffering chronic or terminal illness. Tend to all who cry out for relief (*especially those we name before you now, silently or aloud...*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of mercy, we pray for all who will prepare and lead worship in this Holy Week. In all things, show us the ways that you call us to die to self, to live for you, and to give of ourselves for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth, let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

✠ PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

✠ LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

✠ BLESSING

P Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, † bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

C **Amen.**

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ CLOSING HYMN – Lamb of God (*Your Only Son*) (ELW #336)

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| 1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod
and to become the Lamb of God. | 2 Your gift of love we crucified.
We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God. |
|--|--|

Refrain

Refrain:

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

- 3 I was so lost, I should have died,
but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod
and to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain

✠ DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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