



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



March 28, 2021
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.**

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 – Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW #264)

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

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 may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: *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

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A 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 – 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 – Mark 11:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

P The Holy Gospel, according to Mark, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and 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. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then 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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

✠ SERMON – Pr. Kristin Klade

✠ **HYMN OF THE DAY – O Christ, What Can It Mean For Us**
(ELW #431) *To the melody of “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”*

- 1 O Christ, what can it mean for us
to claim you as our king?
What royal face have you revealed
whose praise the church would sing?
Aspiring not to glory's height,
to power, wealth, and fame,
you walked a different, lowly way,
another's will your aim.
- 2 You came, the image of our God,
to heal and to forgive,
to shed your blood for sinners' sake
that we might rise and live.
To break the law of death you came,
the law of love to bring:
a different rule of righteousness,
a different kind of king.
- 3 Though some would make their greatness felt
and lord it over all,
you said the first must be the last
and service be our call.
O Christ in workplace, church, and home,
let none to power cling;
for still, through us, you come to serve,
a different kind of king.
- 4 You chose a humble human form
and shunned the world's renown;
you died for us upon a cross
with thorns your only crown.
But still, beyond the span of years,
our glad hosannas ring,
for now at God's right hand you reign,
a different kind of king!

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✠ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P On this Sunday of the Passion, we pray for all in need.

A brief silence.

P O God of majesty, mercy and might, hear and heed our fervent prayers:
for the church around the world, that the faithful be nourished
by your presence in the world;
for bishops, pastors, and deacons, that they be strengthened for their tasks of ministry;
for those who are providing the necessary technology for our worship.
Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For the earth, that it be saved from pollution and disregard;
for endangered animals, that they and their habitats be protected;
for scientists, that their knowledge of your earth will guide our society's choices.
Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For peace throughout the world;
for an end to terrorism and religious violence;
for all elected leaders, that they serve the common good.
Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For the countries hardest hit by the coronavirus;
for the fearful and the sick and their families;
for medical personnel and hospitals.
Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For all who are facing the criminal justice system;
for those wrongly accused of crime;
for those who are incarcerated, that they be kept safe.
Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For those whose needs we know,
for those whose needs are hidden;
for all who are sick, for the hungry,
for the dying; especially for those we name before you, silently or aloud....
Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P And finally we pray for ourselves that you may listen to the yearning of our hearts....
Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P With thanks for this Holy Week;
with thanks for the support of our community of faith;
with thanks for the saints who struggled through life and died in you;
we praise your salvation now and unto our end.
Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 – Jesus, Lamb of God (ELW #199)

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

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✠ DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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