



*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 2, 2023*  
*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 work.*

## ✠ OPENING

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

C Hosanna in the highest.

## ✠ PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL – Matthew 21:1-11

A The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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

<sup>5</sup>“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.”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>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!”

<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

A The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

## ✠ 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.**

P Let us go forth in peace,

**C in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The procession into the church begins, the congregation following the minister.*

## ✠ PROCESSIONAL 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*

*Once all are standing at their places in the sanctuary:*

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

**C Hosanna in the highest.**

## ✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## Word

### ✠ FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The 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 awakens — awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>The 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; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It 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

<sup>9</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;**

**my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.**

<sup>11</sup>I 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.

<sup>12</sup>**I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;**

**I have become like a broken vessel.**

<sup>13</sup>For I hear the whispering of many — terror all around! —

as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup>**But I trust in you, O LORD;**

**I say, "You are my God."**

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

<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.**

## ✕ **SECOND LESSON – Philippians 2:5-11**

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

*Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the Gospel.*

## ✕ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – (Setting 4, p. 151)**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## ✕ **GOSPEL – Matthew 26:14-27:66**

P The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*The congregation may be seated for the reading of the Passion.*

## ✕ **HOMILY**

⌘ **HYMN OF THE DAY – Ride On, Ride On in Majesty! (ELW #346)**  
**Sung to the melody “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;  
O Savior meek, your road pursue,  
with palms and scattered garments strewed.
- 2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
- 3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The hosts of angels in the sky  
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.
- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die,  
bow your meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

⌘ **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

A Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

## ✠ PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

## ✠ OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, here and around the world. After the offering is gathered, the gifts are brought forward. Please stand, as you are able.*

## ✠ OFFERING PRAYER

A God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C **Amen.**

# Meal

## ✠ GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

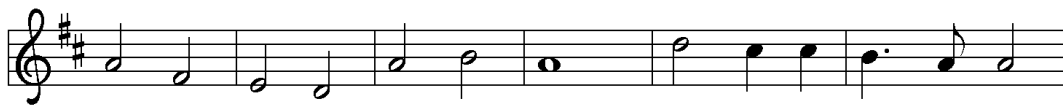
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## ✠ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - (Setting 4, p. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## ✠ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## ✠ 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.**

## ✠ LAMB OF GOD (Setting 4, p. 154)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**✠ INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**✠ COMMUNION HYMN – O Savior, Precious Savior (ELW #820)**

**✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

C Amen.

**✠ BLESSING**

P God, the giver of love, ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C Amen.

**✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**✠ SENDING HYMN – Just As I Am, without One Plea (ELW #592)**

**✠ DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

C Thanks be to God.

## ✠SERVING TODAY

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Presiding Minister: | The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal |
| Music Director:     | John Zacharias            |
| Altar:              | Cindy Dolezal             |
| Assisting Minister: | Kris Davies               |
| Lay Reader:         | Cindy Dolezal             |
| Usher:              | Julie Schmidt             |
| Videographer:       | Gene Davies               |
| Sunday School:      | Phyllis Bell              |
| Communion Cup:      | Meleah Zapata             |

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