

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

Joint Worship to be the church together.

Voices from all congregations – Hope, Augustana, First Lutheran

Worship broadcast via 97.7 FM or www.hopeff.org

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

*“Come Now is the Time to Worship”
(sing through twice, end with chorus)*

Chorus

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are
before your God
Come

Verse 1

One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL READING

(Please join in reading the bold print)

Matthew 21:1-11

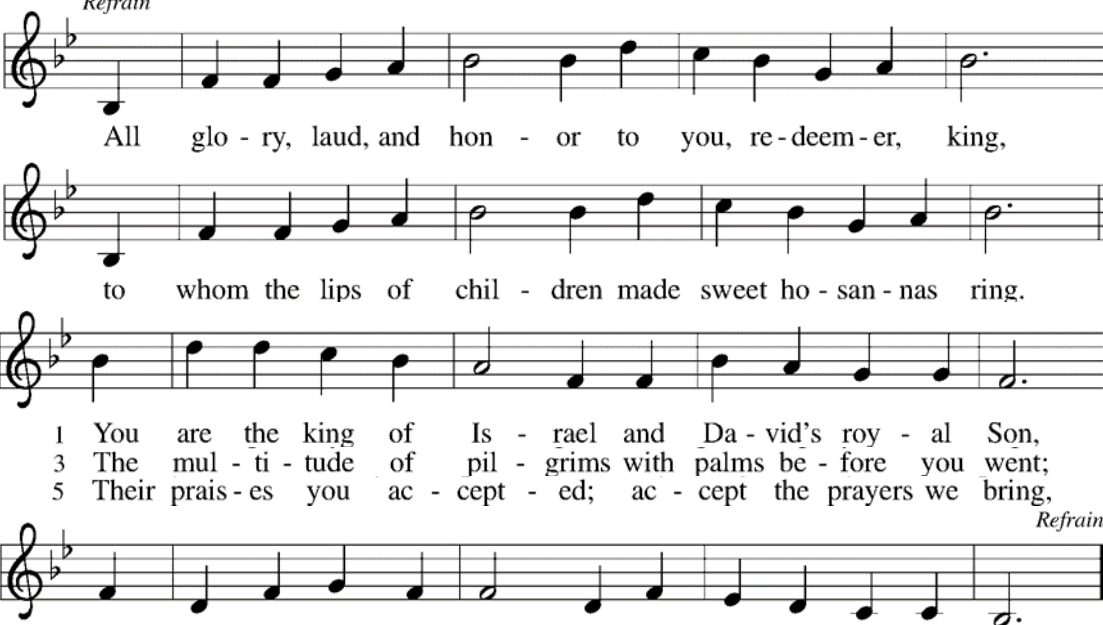
When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “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.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!”**

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying,

“This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

And as Jesus rode along, they spread their garments and palm branches on the road. And the whole multitude began to rejoice and to praise God with a loud voice, saying

C: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Five days later Jesus was bound and led away to be handed over to Pilate. The chief priests had stirred up the crowd and Pilate asked them, "What do you wish me to do with the man you call King of the Jews?"

C: They shouted back, "Crucify Him!"

From the cheering crowds of Palm Sunday to the angry mob of Good Friday, allegiances and loyalties shifted in only a week's time.

C: We can be like that at times. The choice is ever before us; discipleship or rejection, authentic response or play-acting, commitment that will go all the way to a cross.

Like the fickle crowds of the first Palm Sunday, we need to examine ourselves and question the genuineness of our commitment. God of all times and places,

C: We confess that we would sometimes rather join the crowds than stand alone. We sometimes prefer the popular point of view to a solitary witness for justice and truth. We sometimes like the safety and security while shrinking from the risk of involvement. We'll sing "hosanna" when everyone else is doing so—but not when the hostile "Good Friday" forces may hear us. We do not like to admit our lukewarm response to you, but neither do we want to be considered fanatics. We believe Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

We ask you to be patient with us, to help us understand our own guilt. Then pour out your forgiveness in such a way that we are forever transformed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God sweeps into our human scene, redeeming all who turn from evil. There is grace, mercy and renewed strength for all who earnestly seek the new life Christ brings. Let us rejoice together, for even the stones cry out with good news. God forgives. By Christ's authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

SONG OF MERCY

"Day by Day"

ELW #790



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.** 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.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S WORD

Amber Krafnick

A READING FROM 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. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

A READING FROM 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.**

SERMON

Pastor Gretchen Enoch

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Mighty to Save”

(verse 1, chorus, verse 2, chorus, bridge, chorus twice, bridge)

Verse 1

Ev'ry one needs compassion
love that's never failing
let mercy fall on me.
Ev'ry one needs forgiveness,
the kindness of a Savior.
The Hope of nations.

Verse 2

So take me as You find me,
all my fears and failures,
fill my life again.
I give my life to follow,
everything I believe in;
now I surrender.

Chorus

Savior, He can move the mountains,
my God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save!
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave!

Bridge

Shine your light and
let the whole world see:
We're singing for the glory
of the risen King, Jesus!
Shine your light and
let the whole world see:
We're singing for the glory
of the risen King!

APOSTLES' CREED

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 THE CHURCH

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

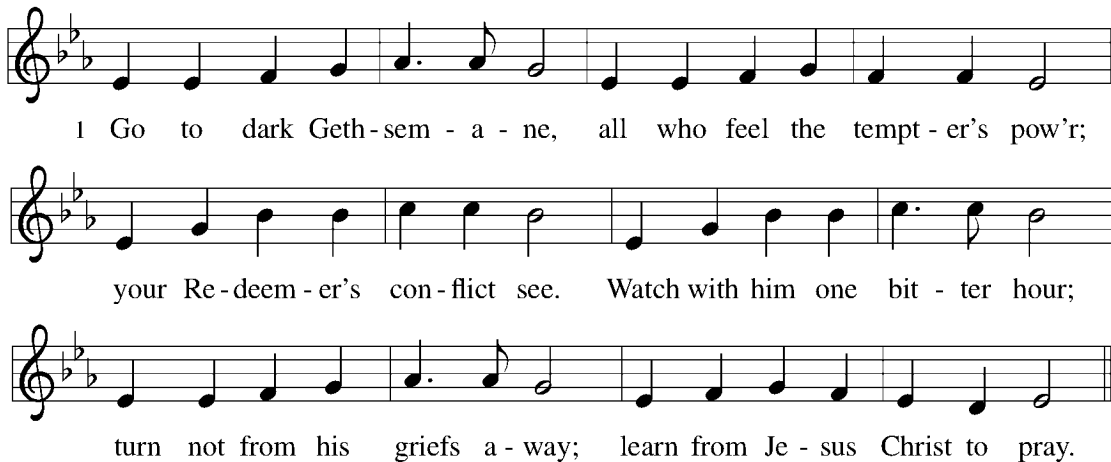
LORD'S PRAYER

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

And so it begins, we walk through this week from palms now to passion, it is Jesus we seek. Each moment we walk through these days now with Jesus is time to see people, the way Jesus sees us. To watch for the ones, who need hope, who need kindness. Seeking the light, not the darkness that blinds us. As you walk through these days, may God who now blesses and keeps you in love whose face shines upon you with grace from above, who looks on you with such joy and such favor. This God, three in One (+) gives you peace - life to savor. **Amen!**

SENDING SONG *"Go to Dark Gethsemane"* **ELW #347 vs. 1**



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
your Re-deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2020:

It is unknown at this time if some of the events scheduled in the upcoming weeks will occur. We will do our best to keep you advised. Be sure to call the church with any questions at 739-3348 or email to office@flcff.org.

The radio broadcast is sponsored by Gertrude Larson in recognition of her 104th birthday, which was on April 4th.

COVID 19 Update - In accordance with the decision of the MN State Governor, the church will remain locked from March 27 – April 10. We will not be able to accommodate public meetings during this time. If you have an emergency, you can contact Pastor Gretchen at 218-321-0995. Please continue to call (leave a message) and email with questions or concerns. Phone: 218-739-3348, Email: office@flcff.org, or check our website firstlutheranchurchff.org for further updates. The ELCA churches of Fergus Falls have joined together to provide worship opportunities on Sunday mornings. All worship services are closed to the public, but will be live-streamed on YouTube and on-air on KJK AM 1020 or Channel 977 FM97.7 at 9:30 am. The building is closed to the public, but the church office will be staffed from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Thursday as we are able.

We appreciate your on-going support of the ministry of First Lutheran Church. Your gifts may be mailed to the church at 402 South Court Street, or you can visit the website firstlutheranchurchff.org and click donate on the upper right corner and set up your donation plan. Any questions, please call the office 739-3348.

Radio Broadcasts are available for sponsorship in the upcoming weeks. Cost: \$100.00. If you would like to cover a broadcast, please call the office at 739-3348 to check on availability. Your support of this ministry is more important than ever, and is greatly appreciated.

There will be YouTube Broadcasts of worship on Maundy Thursday (April 9) and Good Friday (April 10), both at 7:00 p.m. You can livestream by going to our website firstlutheranchurchff.org and clicking on the link. These 2 services will not be broadcast on the radio.

Urgent Request: In response to the shortage of personal protective equipment to protect residents and staff from infection, PioneerCare needs 300 home-sewn masks as soon as possible. Completed masks in sets of 25 or more may be packaged and dropped off in PioneerCare Center's front vestibule. For questions, or to request a pattern, please contact Steve Guttormson at 218-770-7274 or email steveg@pioneercare.org. We have also left copies of the pattern in the outdoor Little Lending Library.

UPDATED INFO: Spring Flowering Plants will be used to decorate the church at Easter for the YouTube broadcast. If you would like to purchase a plant, please send a check for \$20 to the office. Due to restrictions with access to the church building, we don't know when the plants can be picked up after Easter Sunday. We will be in touch with those who purchased plants regarding a future pick-up date.

Red Cross Blood Drive at First Lutheran Church on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 from 1 to 7 p.m. There is a need for blood at this time, and extra precautions will be taken due to COVID-19. For appointments, call 1-800-RED CROSS (733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org enter sponsor code: Fergus First Lutheran.

Breathing Under Water, a Spirituality and Twelve Step Bible Study based on the book by Richard Rohr begins May 4 and continues through August 10. Sign-up in the Narthex, or contact Pastor Gretchen.

Christ in Our Home devotional books for April-May-June have arrived. We delivered copies to PioneerCare and Pioneer Pointe. We also placed copies in our Outdoor Little Lending Library. Please help yourself.

April Messenger has been mailed and posted to the website. If you usually pick-up your copy at church and would like to have one, please call the church at 739-3348. We will be happy to mail a copy to you. We also put some copies in our outdoor Little Lending Library.

VBS Day Camp with Luther Crest "Go Make Disciples" July 6-9 at Hope Lutheran Church from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for ages 4 years old through 6th grade. Sponsored by Augustana, First, Hope and Zion Lutheran Churches. If you would like to contribute toward scholarships to VBS Day Camp you can use a pew envelope and note Luther Crest Day Camp scholarships. Thank you!

VBS Butterflies "Noah's Ark" July 6-9 at First Lutheran Church 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for ages birth through 5 years old. All are welcomed.

