

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



April 2nd, 2023
Palm Sunday

- Gathering -

- service begins gathered in the Fellowship Room -

Call to Worship

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Praise the prophet, Jesus, who rides not a warhorse, but a colt of peace.

Praise to our teacher who comes our way with the gospel of solidarity.

Hosanna in the highest!

Save us from the ways of destruction, Living Christ!

Save our spirits from being sunk by war, loss, and evil!

Hosanna in the highest!

Praise the Holy who comes in the name of Righteous Peace!

Praise the Holy who comes in the name of Radical Love!

Hosanna in the highest!

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel According to Matthew the 21st chapter:

As they approached Jerusalem, entering Beth-Phage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two disciples with the instructions, “Go into the village straight ahead of you, and immediately you will find a tethered donkey with her colt standing beside her. Untie them and lead them back to me. If anyone questions you, say, ‘The Rabbi needs them.’ Then they will let them go at once.”

This came about to fulfill what was said through the prophet:

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
‘Your Sovereign comes to you without display,
riding on a donkey, on a colt –
the foal of a beast of burden.’”

So the disciples went off and did what Jesus had ordered. They brought the donkey and her colt, and after they laid their cloaks on the animals, Jesus mounted and rode toward the city.

Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from the trees and lay them on the path. The crowds – those who went in front of Jesus and those who followed – were all shouting,

**“Hosanna to the Heir of the House of David!
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Most High!
Hosanna in the highest!”**

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred to its depth, demanding, “Who is this?”

And the crowd kept answering, **“This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee!”**

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Blessing of the Palms

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his 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.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

280 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or, to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

Fine

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da-vid's roy - al Son,
2. The com-pa - ny of an - gels are prais-ing thee on high,
3. The peo-ple of the He - brews with palms be-fore thee went;
4. To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
5. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

D.C.

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and Bless-ed One.
 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho-rus make re - ply.
 our prayer and praise and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel-o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King.

WORDS: Theodulph of Orleans, 8-9th cent.; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851

(Mt. 21:8-9; Mk. 11:8-10; Lk. 19:36-38; Jn. 12:12-13)

MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1615; harm. by W. H. Monk, 1861

ST. THEODULPH

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– service continues once all are inside and have found their seats –

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

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

Hosanna in the highest!

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

- Word -

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Exalted YHWH has given me
a skilled and well-trained tongue,
so that I can sustain the weary
with a timely word.

God awakens me morning after morning –
wakens my ear, to listen like a student.

Exalted YHWH has opened my ears
and I have obeyed, I did not turn away.

I offered my back to those beating me,
offered my cheeks to those who would humiliate me.

I did not hide my face from insults
or spitting.

Because Exalted YHWH helps me,
insults cannot wound me,
for I have set my face like flint,
because I know I will not be put to shame.

My vindicator
is at my side.

Who would dare accuse me?

Let us confront each other!

Who are my adversaries?
Let them accuse me!
It is Exalted YHWH who helps me.
Who will judge me guilty?

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31: 5-16

Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, YHWH, God of truth!
**I hate those who cling to useless idols;
but I trust in you.**
I'll be happy, I'll rejoice in your love –
for you saw my despair,
you knew the dark night of my soul.
**You didn't hand me over to the enemy,
but gave my feet boundless freedom.**
Now take pity on me, YHWH,
for I'm in trouble again.
I cried so much that I'm exhausted –
and not only my eyes, but my mind and body as well.
**My life is consumed by sorrow;
my years are worn out with my sighs;
my strength fails me because of my despair;
my bones are getting weaker.**
Because of all my oppressors
I'm held in utter contempt, even by my neighbors;
my friends are afraid of me,
and people who see me on the street hurry past me.
**I am forgotten, as good as dead in their hearts,
like something that has outlived its usefulness.**
I hear their slanders,
and threats from every quarter
as they conspire against me,
plotting to take my life.

**But I put my trust in you, YHWH;
I say, "You are my God!"**
My times are in your hand;
save me from the hands of my enemies and persecutors.
**Smile on your faithful one;
save me in your love!**

Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 27th chapter.

Then Jesus was arraigned before Pontius Pilate, the governor, who questioned him. "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "You say that I am."

Yet when Jesus was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no reply. Pilate said to Jesus, "Surely you hear how many charges they bring against you?" But Jesus did not answer Pilate on a single count, much to the governor's surprise.

Now, on the occasion of a festival, the governor was accustomed to release one prisoner, whomever the crowd would designate. At the time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you wish me to release for you? Barabbas? Or Jesus, the so-called Messiah?" Pilate knew, of course, that it was out of jealousy that they had handed Jesus over.

While Pilate was still presiding on the bench, his wife sent him a message: "have nothing to do with that innocent man. I had a dream about him last night which has been troubling me all day long."

But the chief priests and elders convinced the crowds that they should ask for Barabbas, and have Jesus put to death. So when the governor asked them, "Which one do you wish me to release for you?" they all cried, "**Barabbas!**"

Pilate said to them, "Then what am I to do with Jesus, the so-called Messiah?" "**Crucify him!**" they all said.

"Why? What crime has he committed?" Pilate asked.

But they only shouted louder, "**Crucify him!**"

Pilate finally realized he was getting nowhere with this – in fact, a riot was breaking out. Pilate called for water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, declaring as he did so, "I am innocent of this man's blood. The responsibility is yours." The whole crowd said in reply, "**Let his blood be on us and our children.**" At that, Pilate released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus whipped with a cat-o'-nine-tails, then handed him over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus inside the Praetorium and assembled the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and wrapped him in a scarlet military cloak. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they pressed it onto his head and stuck a reed in his right hand. Then they began to mock Jesus by dropping to their knees, saying, "**All hail, King of the Jews!**" They also spat at him. Afterward they took hold of the reed and struck Jesus on the head. Finally, when they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes and led him off to crucifixion.

On their way out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon, whom they pressed into service to carry the cross. Upon arriving at a site called Golgotha – which means

Skull Place – they gave Jesus a drink of wine mixed with a narcotic herb, which Jesus tasted but refused to drink.

Once they had nailed Jesus to the cross, they divided his clothes among them by rolling dice; then they sat down and kept watch over him. Above his head, they put the charge against him in writing: **“This is Jesus, King of the Jews.”** Two robbers were crucified along with Jesus, one at his right and one at his left.

People going by insulted Jesus, shaking their heads and saying, **“So you are the one who was going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself, why don’t you? Come down off that cross if you are God’s Own!”**

The chief priests, the religious scholars and the elders also joined in the jeering: “He saved others but he cannot save himself! So he’s the King of Israel! Let’s see him come down from that cross, and then we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God rescue him now, if God is happy with him! After all, he claimed to be God’s Own!” The robbers who had been crucified with Jesus jeered at him in the same way.

At noon, a darkness fell over the whole land until about three in the afternoon. At that hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, *“Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”* which means, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” This made some of the bystanders who heard it remark, **“He is calling for Elijah!”** One of them hurried off and got a sponge. He soaked the sponge in cheap wine and, sticking it on a reed, tried to make Jesus drink. The others said, **“Leave him alone. Let’s see whether Elijah comes to his rescue.”**

Once again, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, then he gave up his spirit. Suddenly, the curtain in front of the Holy of Holies was ripped in half from top to bottom. The earth quaked, boulders were split, and tombs were opened. Many bodies of holy ones who had fallen asleep were raised. After Jesus’ resurrection, they came out of their tombs and entered the holy city, and appeared to many.

The centurion and his cohort, who were standing guard over Jesus’ body, were terror-stricken at seeing the earth-quake and all that was happening, and said, **“Clearly, this was God’s Own!”**

A group of women were present, looking on from a distance. These were the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee as ministers to him. Among them were Mary of Magdala; Mary, the mother of James and Joseph; and the mother of Zebedee’s children.

When evening fell, a wealthy man from Arimathea named Joseph, who had become a disciple of Jesus, came to request the body of Jesus; Pilate issued an order for its release. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in fresh linen and laid it in his own tomb, which had been hewn out of rock. Then Joseph rolled a huge stone in front of the entrance of the tomb and went away. But Mary of Magdala and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Who Is He
W&S – verses 1-3

Affirmation of Faith – The Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together using the words of our common creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Joys & Concerns

If you have any joys, concerns, or prayer requests to share, please type them into the comment section of the livestream so that we may lift them up together as a community.

Prayers of the People

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

A brief silence.

(sung by all)

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.***

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,

Receive our prayer.

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,

Receive our prayer.

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,

Receive our prayer.

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,

Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

(sung by all)

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

Offering

*At this time, if you are willing and able, please consider giving to
Spirit of Grace Church to support our ongoing ministry.*

Checks can be mailed to 1140 Tucker Road, Hood River OR, 97031.

Online Donations can be made through the link below:

[Spirit of Grace Church](#)

Offering Prayer

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

as you pour out your very presence

through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

Preface - TFWS 2257-a

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
In love you made us for yourself;
and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death,
your love remained steadfast.
You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the Easter feast,
that, renewed by your Word and Sacraments
and fervent in prayer and works of justice and mercy,
we may come to the fullness of grace
that you have prepared for those who love you.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus - TFWS 2257-b

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem the world.
He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
being born in our likeness.
He humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.
He took upon himself our sin and death and offered himself,
a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Memorial Acclamation - TFWS 2257-c

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and forever.

Great Amen - TFWS 2257-d

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language
you are most familiar with - the language of your heart.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Instructions for Communion

This table of bread and wine has now been made ready.
So come to this table,
You who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been here long
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come and eat. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

Communion Distribution

Prayer after Communion

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.

Amen.

- Sending -

Sending Song:

Ride on, Ride On in Majesty!
ELW 346, verses 1-4

Benediction & Dismissal

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always.
Amen.

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

Our service continues on Good Friday at 7pm



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Church Office Hours
Closed on Fridays
Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
M-Th 9-1, or by appointment
spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com
Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant
Tuesday 10-1

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Opening Hymn:

Hymn of the Day:

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Sending Song: