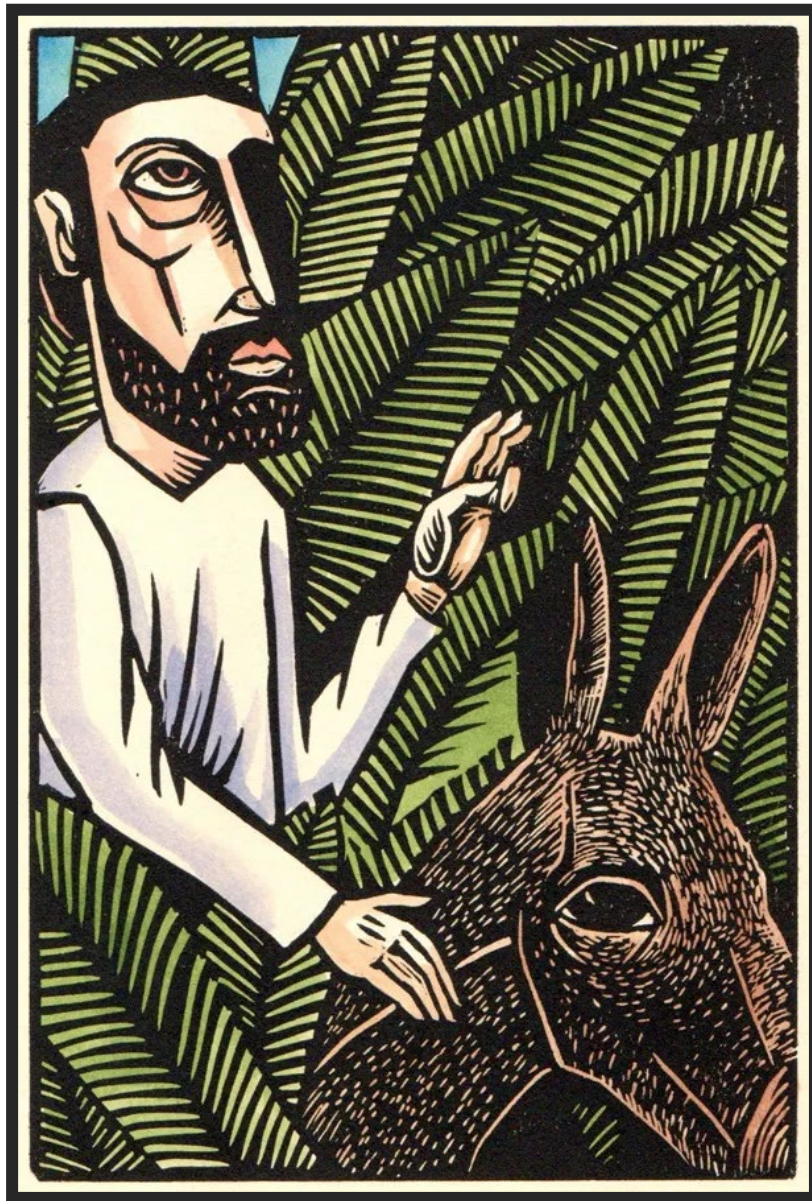


Palm-Passion Sunday



“Psalm 118 Jesus Christ Palm Sunday”

by Kreg Yingst

April 2, 2023

Advent Lutheran Church

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Charlotte, NC 28213

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Opening Meditation

Our Lives as Palm Branches⁺

L: Let us accompany Jesus as he enters Jerusalem today, and let us spread before his feet, not only garments and palm branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but let us offer ourselves before him, clothed in his grace, or rather, clothed completely in him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before him.... Let our lives take the place of the palm branches as we join today in the song: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Blessing of the Palms

L: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 21:1-11

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: God of Celebration, bless these parade palms.⁺
May they remind us of the simple joys of living.
May we remember the excitement that comes with following Christ.

L: God of Justice, bless these protest palms.
May they remind us that empires are not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave to stand up against injustice.

L: God of Comfort, bless these funeral palms.
May they remind us of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us in times of grief and pain.

L: God, we give you thanks for the parade, the protest, and the processional.
Guide our steps through this holiest of weeks,
as we cry out together "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"

C: Amen.

⁺ This Meditation is a revision of *Sermon 9 for Palm Sunday* by Andrew of Crete.

⁺ Written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood.

Processional Hymn ELW #344 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" (vv. 1 & 3)

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,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 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.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Greeting

- L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

Prayers of the People of God

- L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, you set your face towards Jerusalem and walked alongside those who suffer. Be our vision that we too may walk the way of the cross and extend a hand to those we meet. Give us the gladness of your help,
- C: **And support us with a willing spirit.**
- L: Lord Jesus Christ, you stopped to heal the sick, cure the lame and give sight to the blind. Be our vision that we too may give time to others and respond to their needs. Give us the gladness of your help,
- C: **And support us with a willing spirit.**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you said, "The first shall be last and the last first." Be our vision that we too may work towards your kingdom when the exalted will be brought low and the lowly exalted. Give us the gladness of your help,

C: And support us with a willing spirit.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you ate with tax collectors and sinners and heard their stories. Be our vision that we too may listen to the despised and rejected and value their lives. Give us the gladness of your help,

C: And support us with a willing spirit.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you took time to pray and time to be silent. Be our vision that through our prayers, fasting and almsgiving we too may draw closer to you and find your way. Give us the gladness of your help,

C: And support us with a willing spirit.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you entered Jerusalem with peace in your heart. Be our vision that we too may desire peace where others desire war, and may work for justice where injustice reigns. Give us the gladness of your help,

C: And support us with a willing spirit. Amen.

Offering *(Please sign and pass the pew pads.)*

Offertory Anthem *"God So Loved the World"* Sanctuary Singers

Meditation *The Spiritual Eye of the Little One⁺*

L: Those who truly recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah were not the particularly talented, neither truly geniuses nor in any way the elite or the mighty, but they were the common people . . . those who happened to be in the streets of Jerusalem at the time. For the power that opened their eyes and hearts was not human power, but the Spirit of God. Indeed, it is "the little ones," the possessors of the kingdom of heaven, as Jesus calls them, who are particularly free and open to the workings of the Spirit.

L: Come, Holy Spirit, give us the eyes and ears of the "little ones" that we might recognize you as you as you walk among us today.

C: Amen.

⁺ This Meditation is a revision of writing from *The Lord* by Romano Guardini.

Who Is This King

A Telling of the Palm-Passion Story through Drama and Music

Jesus grows his following

Congregational Hymn ELW #798 "The Summons" (vv. 1, 3, 5)



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Jesus' Ministry Expands – Doubts and Beliefs

"You Are the Christ"

Sanctuary Singers

A New Day – Jesus Enters Jerusalem

"The King of Glory"

Sanctuary Singers

Confrontation and Betrayal

Preparation for Passover

"Who Is This King"

David Poe

Table Prayer

L: Lord Jesus Christ, your love is broken open among cheering crowds and traitor's coins, deserting friends and hands washed clean, the mockery of power and the fickleness of crowds: as we follow your way of passion, give us the faith to bring our hearts to the foot of the cross and the door of the guarded tomb that they might be opened, astonished, and healed.

C: Amen.

Holy Communion

Lord's Prayer (spoken)

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.

"Given for You"

Sanctuary Singers

David Poe, Soloist

"Dreamers and Doubters"

Sanctuary Singers

Post-Communion Blessing

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Stay here and keep watch with me

The Trial

Congregational Hymn

ELW #353 "Were You There"

(Rob Beyersdorf lead v. 1)



- 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



- Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
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- Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Refrain



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



- Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

(Worship service continues on Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7:00pm.)