

Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024
Pastor Kim Swenson



The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

Worship Volunteers
Assisting Minister: Kay Zastrow
Reader: Sue Keckhaver
Altar Guild: Pat Petzel
Communion Assistant: Dawn Schroeder
Ushers: Dave & Mary Hansen
Video Tech: Doug Hanson

Welcome

Call to Worship & Blessing of Palms

Sing songs of loudest praise!

Hosanna!

Sing songs that are unashamed.

Hosanna!

Sing songs without being afraid.

Hosanna!

Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

Hosanna!

Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who writes the law on our hearts,

who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

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.

Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.



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,



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.

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 & Forgiveness

The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence.

After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, "the disciples did not understand what was happening" (John 12:16).

A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God's presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop—or we're standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing.

That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast, and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood. So let us pray, for we don't want to miss our chance to sing:

Let us Pray: Holy God, **we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel.**

However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall.

Too often we stay quiet.

Too often we let others carry the song.

**Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade
but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines.**

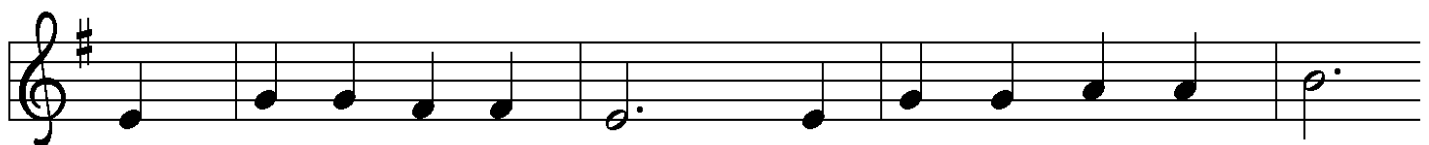
Show us which songs are ours to sing.

Show us which parades are ours to lead,

and then give us the courage and conviction to do both.

With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

Kyrie – Setting 10



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—Jesus marched for you. Jesus' love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you. You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that.

So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones:

We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ loves you today. And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing. Go out trusting these words. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, God of Grace,

your Word is like a song.

It is the melody that we long to sing,

the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads.

So as we return to scripture once more,

we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song.

Allow us to hear the truth in between the words.

Allow the cries of the crowd's "hosannas" to feel like our own. With open hearts and open ears we pray, amen.

Bethel Choir

Entrance into Jerusalem

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

WORD

First Reading: Psalm 31:9-16 *read responsively by full verse*

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

my eye wastes away from grief,

my soul and body also.

¹⁰**For my life is spent with sorrow,**

and my years with sighing;

my strength fails because of my misery,

and my bones waste away.

¹¹I 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.

¹²**I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;**

I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³For I hear the whispering of many —

terror all around! —

as they scheme together against me,

as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my God."

¹⁵My times are in your hand;

deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;

save me in your steadfast love.

The Word for All Ages

Gospel Acclamation - Setting 10



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel: John 12:12-16

Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹²[Five days before the Passover] the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!"

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

¹⁵"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,

sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna with Choir* Congregation sings 3rd verse

CONGREGATION

parts 1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren
parts 2. From O - li - vet they fol - lowed a - mong the joy - ful
unis. 3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" that an - cient song we
sang, Through pil - lared court and tem - ple, the
crowd; the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, with
sing; for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the
love - ly an - them rang, To Je - sus, who had
sing - ing clear and loud. The Lord of earth and
Lord of heav'n, our King. O may we ev - er
blessed them, close fold - ed to His breast, the
heav - en rode on in low - ly state, the nor
praise Him with heart and life and voice, and
chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on His bid - ing wait.
in His bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

who challenged Rome's oppressive power with peaceful protest.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise.

Hosanna!

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

Prayers of the People

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

O God, you are our God,
and we will offer you our praise
our whole lives long,
for your steadfast love endures forever.
Our lives are in your hands,
and we are grateful for your provision and care.

Our cries of "Hosanna!" will turn to "Crucify him!"
and our hearts break with that knowledge.
Mend our brokenness, and lead us to faithfulness.
Hosanna, **save us, Lord.**

Hear our prayers for the brokenness of this world.
We offer prayers this day for people who are hurt
by our greed, our judgment, our thirst for power.
Help us to mend what we have broken,
to repair relationships, to heal society.
Hosanna, **save us, Lord.**

We offer prayers for people in pain
and worry and grief.
Bring healing, bring comfort, bring wholeness.
Hosanna, **save us, Lord.**

Hear our prayers for the leaders of the world.
Whether they serve large or small communities,
cities, states, or countries,
may they follow your path of peace
rather than our warring ways.
Give them wisdom, humility,
and concern for our people,
that they may heal the world
rather than take from the spoils.

Hosanna, **save us Lord.**

For what else do the people of God pray?
Silent and spoken prayers are invited

We offer these prayers in the name of the one
who came to serve rather than be served,
who was willing to take on the brokenness of the world
in order that it might be made whole.
Hosanna, **save us, Lord. Amen.**

Peace

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

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray, **Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God's love nurtures our wandering spirits each day
and God's light sustains our souls each night.

What wondrous love is this?

Love that ate with sinners. Love that welcomed children.

What wondrous love is this?

Love that healed the lame.

Love that listened to the silenced.

What wondrous love is this?

Love that died for us.

Love that rose for us.

Love that still forgives and knows us.

On the night in which he was betrayed
Which is to say, on the night before he was sentenced
to death by those who would plot against him
for challenging their power and disturbing their comfortable life,
Which is to say, on the night before he was subjected
to a mockery of a trial, tortured and humiliated,
On that night, with the heart of God on full display, as feet were washed, a meal
was shared and commands to love one another were given,
On that night, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and shared it
among them saying:

Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this and remember me.

In the same way after supper,
In the same way, which is to say,
with those same incredibly imperfect and fallible people there,
His closest friends, the ones who knew him the best,
the ones who had watched him heal, heard him teach
and yet would doubt, deny and betray him,
In the same way, among people just like us,
among people flawed and forgiven,
In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup and he gave thanks.
He gave it to his friends, (his deeply loved, fully human friends),
each of them in turn, saying:

**Drink. This cup is poured out for you and for all people. It is the promise of God.
Drink it and remember me.**

We remember Jesus' death and resurrection, our hope and our life. We break
the bread and share the one cup. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain

O Lamb of



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:
may our fasting be hunger for justice,
our alms, a making of peace,
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING

Announcements

Sending into Holy Week & Benediction

We ask "Will I betray you Lord?"

We lift our palms in uncertainty.

We deny following you.

We lift our palms in disbelief.

We see you on the cross, nails in feet and palms.

We lift our palms in sorrow.

We wait in darkness.

We are held in your palm forever. Amen.

The blessing of God's eternal love,
the courage to follow ✠ the way of the cross,
and the guidance of the Spirit in the desert places of our world,
be among you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
 4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -
 me, love to the love - less shown that they might
 stow; the world that was his own would not its
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of
 love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
 Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
 to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is
 life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to
 for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!
 all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
 suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home
 my Lord on earth might have;
 in death no friendly tomb
 but what a stranger gave.
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—
 no story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
 I all my days could gladly spend!

Dismissal

Go in peace, to live and share the love of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 3/19/24 \$ 19,059.40

Monthly Budget Expenses:..... \$ 18,743.00

YTD Receipts through 2/29/24..... \$ 41,661.00

Yearly Budget..... \$ 224,917.00

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Please, if you are able to help on a future date in April, sign up in the hallway. Also, looking for Easter Sunday coffee hour host.

Palm Sunday: There will be a cinnamon roll brunch immediately following worship today.

Handbags for Hope: In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to bring in any unwanted purses. Donations are also needed of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin.

Holy Week: Sign-up sheets are in the hallway for worship volunteers. Please help out as you are able.

Bethel Photo Directory: If you haven't already done so, please submit a recent photo for the new church directory. It can be emailed to the church or brought to the office for scanning.

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Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Prayers of the Day from *Connections: Worship Companion Yr B, Vol1*.