



HOSANNA *in the highest!*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Matthew 21:9

PALM SUNDAY
March 28, 2021

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Office: (510) 793-6285

March 28, 2021
Palm Sunday
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

[Click here for a video of the service](#)

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

PRELUDE . . . *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens
may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed,
what new life and promise await us.

AN INVOCATION FOR PALM SUNDAY

*P: We raise our voices and wave with joyful hope the palms of
deliverance of God’s people.*

All: Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!

*P: Our hearts are filled with expectation as we welcome the
coming king.*

All: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

*P: We receive into the crowded streets of our lives the one who is
Savior, not only of us, but of all the earth.*

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!



CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The story of faith is a story of courage.

All: It took courage for John the Baptist to prepare the way.

L: It took courage for Mary to say, "Here I am. Use me."

All: It took courage for the disciples to drop their nets and follow Jesus.

L: It took courage for the paralyzed man's friends to lower him through the roof.

All: It took courage for Peter to walk on water.

L: It took courage for Zacchaeus to give half of his possessions to the poor.

All: It took courage for Jesus to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

L: Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.

All: Again and again, God, show us the way. Let us worship a brave and courageous God.

GREETING

P: Ride on Lord Jesus. Upon a colt, over cloaks, under branches –

All: ride on Lord Jesus.

P: Towards a city, through its gates, past the crowds –

All: ride on Lord Jesus.

P: As hosannas fade and enemies sneer, as danger closes and friends falter –

All: ride on Lord Jesus.

P: Showing the way, teaching the truth, bringing life for all, in the name of the Lord –

All: ride on Lord Jesus.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL . . . *Mark 11:1-11*

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?'

just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’ ” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.

P: The streets were crowded. A parade mood filled the air. Shouts came from deep in the heart.

All: Hosanna. Save us.

P: Save us from lukewarm faith. Save us from callous indifference.

All: Hosanna. Save us.

P: Save us from paltry hopes and petty dreams. Save us from unquenchable greed.

All: Hosanna. Save us.

P: Save us from lazy habits and faithless commitments. Save us from soft-mindedness and hard-heartedness.

All: Hosanna. Save us.

P: We cry from the depth of our hearts and the very pit of our souls.

All: Hosanna. Save us. Save us now.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: In the grace of God, through the love of Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit,

All: we are saved from brokenness and sin and are restored to the joy of God's salvation.

PALM SUNDAY LITANY . . . by Pastor Joe Welty

L: O Lord, you rode on. You rode over the cloaks and under the branches,

All: You rode through the shouts and past the praises, receiving the praise that you deserved,

L: but not confusing our praise in your presence for your purpose in coming.

All: O Lord, you rode on.

L: You rode towards the controversy and the cost, You rode towards the curses and the cross,

All: Receiving the stripes you didn't deserve, to give us a reward that we couldn't earn.

L: O Lord, you rode on. You rode through the tomb and the grave,

All: You rode through our time and space, ascending to a throne that will never decay,

L: a priesthood that will never pass away, a life of love that will always remain,

All: and hearing us even now as we pray.

L: O Lord, you rode on. We remember the journey you have taken as we commit ourselves to walking in the same way.

All: Give us the strength, hope, and joy we need as we follow. In your name we pray, Amen.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Eternal One, as we enter Holy Week and celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem,

All: may we laugh with the children and shout our hosannas with the crowd.

L: But never let us forget where this week ends. For the one who emptied himself for our sake,

All: took the form of a servant and was betrayed and denied by his disciples and closest friends.

L: May we sing in our hearts this day,

All: but may our song be mixed with sorrow and regret, for such is the life of followers in every age. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Lead us in your truths, O God.

All: Teach us your ways and your paths.

Reader: Instruct us through your word,

All: As we humbly receive your lessons.

GOSPEL . . . *Mark 15:1-47*

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate

spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!” In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: God of Life, we give thanks that our strength is found in you.

All: May your word move within us and renew our faith.

Reader: May the same mind be in us that was in Jesus,

All: that we might have courage enough to walk with him all the way to the cross.

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Carmen Blair*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: Whether we are bringing a colt or spreading our clothes on the road, whether we are writing a check with many zeroes or dropping a few coins in the plate, our gifts are symbols of welcoming Christ.

All: Every gift is a blessing. Every gift is needed. Let us welcome Christ as we share our offerings with God.

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Holy God, as we offer our gifts and our very selves to you, receive this offering as the first measure of our gratitude for all that you are and all that you have done for us, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

All: Help us continue to sing a song of gratitude each and every day of our lives, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer; grant respite and renewal. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death and all who offer support in grief. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: Your Mercy is great.

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: 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.

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

P: Pilate washed his hands of him. Peter denied that he ever knew him.

All: All the disciples deserted him.

P: Judas ended his own life after betraying him. Joseph of Arimathea provided a grave.

All: Mary and the woman stood watch over him.

P: The centurion proclaimed him to be the Son of God.

All: The soldiers secured his grave with a stone.

P: Jesus said to the disciples, "I will go ahead of you to Galilee."
All: Let us go forth into this Holy Week knowing that no matter who we are, or what we have done, Jesus Christ goes ahead of us to prepare the way.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace as you experience all of Holy Week.
All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE . . . "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff
Lay Liturgist & Readers: The Harren Family
Children's Time: Carmen Blair
Music: Leilani Camara
Video Editing: Carmen Blair
Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema



Holy Week