

Rethinking Religion



Rethinking Real Strength

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

HOLY WEEK

Every year, the sixth Sunday of Lent celebrates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Better known as "Palm Sunday," Jesus' fateful entry into the capital city happens four days before his institution of Holy Communion, five days before his crucifixion, and seven days before his resurrection. Together, the week beginning on Palm Sunday and lasting through Easter is referred to as "Holy Week."

PALM SUNDAY: RETHINKING REAL STRENGTH

Most religions believe in a powerful God. It is assumed that God will use that strength for the benefit of his followers. That is a reasonable assumption, but it begs the question. What is real strength? It is easy to assume that real strength means exerting your will over another by using any means necessary, including force. But this week we see Jesus Christ demonstrate a different kind of strength.

We have come to Holy Week. It begins with Jesus humbly riding a donkey colt straight into the hands of his enemies. As the week progresses, it will appear that Christ's adversaries are the ones in a position of power and Jesus is in a position of weakness. Yet what Christ does this holy week—setting his divine strength aside, being passive in the face of death—would change the world. To do what Christ did for us and our salvation took real strength.

Hosanna in the highest! God bless your worship.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

8:00am: Pastor John Hartmann *10:45am:* Pastor Adam Mueller

Preacher

Pastor David Clark

Organist/Pianist

Nathan Reich

Musicians

Sharon Hartmann, Gail & Calli Stoeckman, Carson Williams

Men's Choral Group

David Clark, John Hartmann, Ethan Jaeger, Adam Mueller,

Nate Reich, Tim Webster, Charlie Weinstein

Usher Teams

8:00am: Martin Hansen, Tim & Ben Webster, Charlie Weinstein

10:45am: Rich Kasson, James Weinstein, Clyde Brumfield

Flowers

The flowers on the altar this morning were given to the Glory of God by Ruth Schaller, in memory of the 5th anniversary of Loren and Jon's passing.

† ORDER OF SERVICE †

When prompted, stand and turn to face the back of the church where the processional group is gathered.

Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. Today we come together to begin the solemn celebration of Holy Week. Christ entered in triumph into his own city to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion his entry that culminated at the empty tomb and follow him with a lively faith. United with him by baptism, we share in his resurrection and new life.

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

Hosanna in the highest!

The procession begins. During the procession, the hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" is sung.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor | 412:1-3

Children's palm procession

Refrain:

**All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessèd One. (Refrain)**

**The company of angels
is praising you on high,
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply. (Refrain)**

**The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. (Refrain)**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God our Father, we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed as a king by those who shouted "Hosanna" and spread their clothing and palm branches in his path. Accept our praise, and listen to our prayers as we rejoice in our triumphant King, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The children's devotion is a shortened version of the sermon intended to communicate God's truths in a simplified way. Children age 12 and under are encouraged to come forward.

The Word

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

Your King comes to you riding on a donkey.

- ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and having salvation,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- ¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the war-horses from Jerusalem,
and the battle bow will be broken.
He will proclaim peace to the nations.
His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- ¹¹ As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.
- ¹² Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope;
even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL

Mark 11:1-10

Blessed is Christ who comes in the name of the LORD!

¹ As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna!"¹

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

¹⁰ "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Be seated

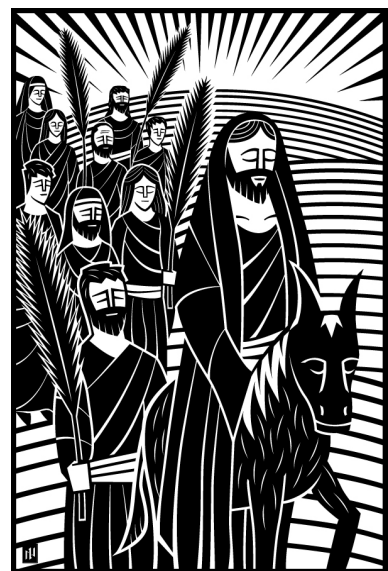
HYMN OF THE DAY

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty | **411**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue your road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.**

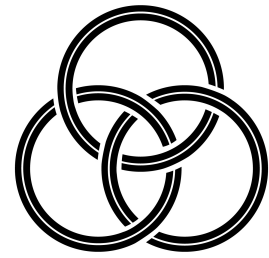
**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
To see th' approaching sacrifice.**



¹ The word "hosanna" is a Hebrew word that means "Lord, save us!" The crowds cried, "Hosanna!" at Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, and it is still the cry of Christians today. The Lord has saved us! Hosanna!

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on his sapphire throne
Awaits his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow your meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O Christ, your power and reign.**



SERMON

Fix Your Eyes On Jesus

1. Jesus finished his race for you.
2. Your race for Jesus is still being run.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Stand

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

As people redeemed by the King who entered Jerusalem on a donkey so that he could leave carrying a cross, let us pray for ourselves, for our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for those who cannot pray for themselves.

Brief silence

Heavenly Father, as your Son humbled himself for our salvation, give to each of us and to every member of your Church a confident faith in Christ's passion.

During this Holy Week and throughout our lives we humbly entrust ourselves to you.

Heavenly Father, your Son promised that when he was lifted up, he would draw all people to himself. Turn unbelievers from their false gods to you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. Work through chaplains and missionaries. Give each of us the courage to speak of our King, who comes righteous and having salvation.

By the power of your Gospel, put faith-filled hosannas into the mouths of people who now live without you.

Heavenly Father, in love for us your Son became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Teach us to look to you in every temptation.

With your strength, help us resist Satan and our own sinful desires, obey your commandments, and care for all people as you care for us.

Heavenly Father, give your protection and guidance to our president, our governor, our mayor, and to all who make, administer and judge our laws.

Protect every life. Allow our citizens to live under justice in our country and in every nation of the world.

Heavenly Father, come to the rescue of all who are sick, injured, facing surgery or recovering from surgery [*especially ...*]. Provide for each one according to their needs.

Help them, heal them, comfort them and encourage them in the way that you know to be best for each of them.

Lord of the Church, during this Holy Week, you call your people from around the world to follow you through your passion, death and resurrection. Bless the service of all those who provide special music during this week, who read your Holy Scriptures in the assembly, who proclaim your suffering, death and resurrection.

Feed your flock, reveal your glory, and grow our faith.

Special prayers and intercessions.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring your our private prayers.

Silence for personal prayer.

Into your gracious care, heavenly Father, we place ourselves and everyone for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**



FRIENDSHIP REGISTER AND MUSICAL OFFERTORY

HYMN

No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet | **414:1-2**

**No tramp of soldiers' marching feet
with banners and with drums,
no sound of music's martial beat:
"The King of glory comes!"
To greet what pomp of kingly pride
no bells in triumph ring,
no city gates swing open wide:
"Behold, behold your King!"**

**And yet he comes. The children cheer;
with palms his path is strown.
With ev'ry step the cross draws near:
the King of glory's throne.
Astride a colt he passes by
as loud hosannas ring,
or else the very stones would cry
"Behold, behold your King!"**

Stand

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor † and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna | **413**

**Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
thro' pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.**

**"Hosanna in the highest!"
that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heav'n, our King.
Oh, may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice
and in his royal presence
eternally rejoice.**

The March edition of the WELS Connection will be shown immediately following the closing hymn.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday	March 28	6:30 p.m. (<i>with Holy Communion</i>) ²
Good Friday	March 29	12:00 p.m. (<i>Devotional</i>) & 6:30 p.m. (<i>Tenebrae</i>)
Easter Sunday	March 31	6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service (<i>outside</i>) 7:00 a.m. Easter breakfast served 8:00 a.m. Festival Service 9:00 a.m. Easter breakfast served 10:00 a.m. Children's Activities & Egg Hunt 10:45 a.m. Festival Service (<i>same as 8am</i>)



² Note: No dinner served on Holy Thursday.

- ❖ *Please reserve the pews in the back of the church for families with small children.*
- ❖ *Restrooms are located in the entrance area of the church. A changing table is available in the women's restroom.*
- ❖ *A quiet room with a window is available in the entrance area of the church and offers live audio of the service. Parents may use this room to calm a restless child.*
- ❖ *If you would like to know more about Redeemer, visit redeemertucson.com or contact one of our pastors.*



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