

See, Your King Palm Sunday

Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus: Today is Palm Sunday, it is the beginning of Holy Week. We are torn. We have every reason to lament and weep over our sins, our sins that caused Jesus so much suffering and ultimately death. It is tragic the weight of guilt and shame that we piled on Jesus. Yet we also ponder the great love of our Savior, he goes eagerly and willingly to die in our place. Was there ever love like this? We can't help but follow Jesus and join with the children who shout his praises, we can't help but follow him to the cross because there is no greater act of love than this, he goes to die for us, for you, for me.



The theme as you worship: Our theme for worship is “See Your King!” See the many and great gifts that your king comes to give you.

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INVOCATION & INVITATION TO WORSHIP

M: We worship...In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

SONG

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

♪ 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 blessed one.

♪ All glory, laud, and honor To you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.
The company of angels Is praising you on high,
And we with all creation In chorus make reply.

♪ All glory, laud, and honor To you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.
The people of the Hebrews With palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems Before you we present.

♪ All glory, laud, and honor To you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.
To you before your passion They sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, Our melody we raise.

♪ All glory, laud, and honor To you, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.
As you received their praises, Accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, Our good and gracious King.

CONFESSION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near to him with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.**

ABSOLUTION

M: God our heavenly Father has been merciful to us. He has sent his one and only son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sin. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, today we see you riding into Jerusalem, being treated like a king, but like no other king in history. You came in humility, to serve us, to die for us. And now risen, you are exalted as the highest of Kings. Remind us you still rule today, and that because of the gifts you bring to us, our future is sure and certain under your care as our king. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE GOSPEL

John 12:12-19

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!” ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”

¹⁶At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him.

¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!” ¹

SONG

There is a Redeemer

♪ **There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

Refrain

♪ **Thank, you, O my Father, for giving us your Son
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.**

♪ **Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain.**

Refrain

♪ **When I stand in glory, I will see his face;
There I’ll serve my King forever In that holy place.**

Refrain

THE MESSAGE

Zechariah 9:9-13

Theme: *See, Your King!*

⁹Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ²

Zechariah was a prophet at time when there was very little rejoicing in the Israel. It was a gloomy time in Israel. It was now a few decades after a group of Israelites have returned from the Babylonian captivity. The city and temple have not been rebuilt. You can imagine the stories the exiles heard about the glory of Jerusalem and the temple. What do they find upon their return? It is in shambles. The people had started the work, but it got halted by the pesky peoples around them. There seemed to be continual red tape from the Persians who were now in charge, they weren’t getting anywhere. The people are distraught and discouraged, depressed. There was a gloom hanging over the people of Israel.

To revive his people and to comfort his people, God sends in Zechariah the prophet. In the midst of the gloom around them Zechariah cries out, “Rejoice, rejoice greatly daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes

¹ [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Jn 12:12–19). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

² [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Zec 9:9-10). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

to you..." (Zech 9:9). God would send a King, his Son to rescue them! In the midst of their gloom and problems, there was reason to rejoice! Zechariah says that God's people can first and foremost have joy!

The people of Jesus' day also lived in depressing and gloomy times. Their glorious home land of Israel was under Roman rule. Tax collectors working for the Romans overcharged them and oppressed them. The religious leaders of day misled them and oppressed the people.

In the midst of the gloom, Jesus brought them joy. Wherever Jesus went he brought joy into the lives of sinners otherwise living in gloom. Whether it was showing forgiveness to once greedy tax collectors like Matthew and Zacchaeus, or forgiveness to the woman caught in adultery, or forgiveness of sins to a man lying paralyzed before him, then to show his power to forgiveness, he has him walk home. Or, the joy he brought to those two sisters when their brother was brought back to life. Jesus, brought joy to their lives. The joy Jesus brought them was not just a surface emotion that would leave them. Jesus brought a joy based on the forgiveness of sins and the certainty of life.

We are living in times that could easily be defined as some pretty gloomy circumstances. Health crisis, a financial crisis, family units at home together all day, could be a blessing, could cause conflict in the home and in marriages. I can't help but think with these stimulus checks being doled out, the new crime people will dream up, the unemployment numbers skyrocketing. There are so many perplexing problems right now without many answers in the near future.

Although we like to think we have a good handle on our lives, our future is beyond our control. Every now and then God gets draws attention to the fact that our lives are not in our control. It can feel or seem gloomy and scary. Job loss, financial woes, a loved one passes, we panic, we don't know what is coming next or how things will turn out. Whatever perplexing problems we're facing, whatever questions remain about our future here on earth, we have every reason to be filled with joy. Rejoice, Jesus riding into Jerusalem was to save us from death and hell. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus through faith in him. We are cleansed of sin, forgiven and will stand forever in glory shouting the praises of him who loved us and died for us. There is no greater joy.

Rejoice, shout! Why? See, you have a king! (Reading through verses 9b-10) ... But you can immediately see he is not like any earthly king. He is righteous and having salvation. He is gentle and riding on a donkey. A rare kind of ruler indeed! Those in charge don't always have to pump an iron fist to demonstrate power. Maybe you had a teacher or a coach who could command a room without ever raising their voice. The power of gentility is something marvelous, right? Imagine if Jesus wasn't gentle. We'd all be like Peter that time when Jesus filled boats with more fish than they could handle, what did Peter do? He cried out, "Go away from me Lord, I am a sinful man!" If we saw Jesus flex his muscle we'd all be in the same boat as Peter, "Go away from me Lord, I am a sinful human being."

But we have watched where this story of Palm Sunday leads. We know how the story goes and we can't ponder it enough. We have seen how Jesus clothe himself in humility and go willingly to suffer and die on a cross. In fact, Jesus would say on the night before he died, in the upper room, "Now the Son of man is glorified." Jesus viewed his glory not in that glorious ride into Jerusalem to the cheers of adoring crowds, his glory was in masking his power. His glory was in becoming the lamb whose blood would be the ransom price to free us from God's punishment. Remember the last plague that God used to afflict the Egyptians and make Pharaoh free God's people, death to the firstborn? The Israelites were only freed from the plague through the blood of a spotless lamb over their homes. The angel of death would see the blood on the doorpost and "Passover" that home. Their home was free from death. Jesus' glory was in spilling his perfect blood so we could be free from God's punishment of eternal death in hell.

This gentleness and humility of Jesus is worth remembering. Sometimes we want to see King Jesus flex his muscle. Lord Jesus, "Heal the sick and diseased of the world. Lord Jesus convert that family member or neighbor or friend!" These are good prayers, godly prayers, prayers he may answer with a thundering "Yes!" But would we dare to make those pleas if he had not shown us what kind of King he is? He shows us we can approach him because he didn't come to rule us, but save us. He didn't come to demand more of us so we make it to eternal life, but to give us his righteousness so we can have eternal life a gift. He came to give us everything we needed. Gentleness is often the best way to engender trust. People don't usually yell at others, "Trust me!" with good results. Rather with an extended hand they say, "Trust me."

Through the prophets, through the gospel writers who record, God is saying to you, "Trust me." See how it happened just as the prophets said? Jesus rides into Jerusalem to shouts of joy, on a donkey, just as it was foretold. With every little phrase Jesus utters, "In a little while I'm going to go away" Jesus would say to his disciples. "In a little while you will weep, but it won't last long." And it was true. Jesus was telling his disciples he is king who is in charge of every last detail, trust him. He was coordinating every event, trust him. In spite of all the horrors they'd see in the coming week they didn't need to be depressed or despair, trust him. It was going to happen just as he had told them. Suffering, dying, rising from the dead on the third day.

Did any of us see what was coming in this virus? Did any of us really know a year ago that this is where things would be leading up to Easter Sunday 2020? Did any of us think this would happen just a few months ago, in a little while we'd be sitting in front of our tv screens worshipping on a Sunday morning? Jesus did and he says to you, "Trust me." There is really no reason for us to be despondent, to worry or despair over anything that comes our way. Jesus has all power. As he guided every little detail of holy week that led to the cross and empty tomb, he is still guiding the events of history so that you might live with him forever. Think of it, even at Jesus' death, God guided the events of history so that the sign over his head would read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." You have a king, a saving king who brings joy. Trust him.

Did everyone who worshipped Jesus as king on that first Palm Sunday fully understand how Jesus was king of their lives? Probably not. Does that mean that Jesus discredits their praises? Even John tells us the disciples didn't grasp these things until after his was up in heaven. Do we fully grasp how Jesus is king of our lives? Sadly no. Do we get it, no? We don't always understand, sometimes we are slow to understand God's ways, to accept God's ways. We aren't always right on with our worship. We praise Jesus one day with our words and actions, then the next day our lives and our words don't always match our confession. We've neglected to hand things over to him in prayer, our dedication as his disciples is up and down. It is dangerous to navel-gaze, to do too much introspection. It leaves us in a place of guilt and worry.

Thankfully we can be at peace. The Christian faith isn't about us being right, it is about Jesus being right (Repeat). In gentleness, in humility, he brings us just what we need. He comes with righteousness so we can stand before God and be saved.

¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses 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, you prisoners of hope... (Zech 9:11-12)³

He brings us peace, making things of war, things of the past. Peace was brought to us through the blood of the Lamb of God, it purifies us from all sin. The writer to the Hebrews says it this way, ¹¹ *But when Christ came as high priest* ¹² *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own*

³ [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Zec 9:11-13). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

*blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.*⁴ Jesus entered into the Holy city of Jerusalem to redeem to buy us back from a situation that was hopeless. *I will free you from the waterless pit.* A waterless pit is a place you could never escape from on your own. Daniel was thrown to the lions and God shut the lion's mouths and saved him. Jeremiah was left to die in a pit, God had him rescued. Joseph was stripped of his multicolored coat and thrown in a pit and God brought him out with plans for him to prosper. The point is, we were in a situation where we would be at war with God forever in our rebellion and sin and God reached down and said, "Trust me." He brought us out and now we have hope.

God's people were in a gloomy place, but Zechariah says that with the King God is sending they are "prisoners of hope." The flame of hope had just about died out. But with the promise of a king who guides all human history and will bring righteousness, and salvation, there was joy! There was hope, there was joy in the midst of trouble. Amen.

APOSTLES CREED⁵

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.

OFFERING

"On the first day of the week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money" –II Corinthians 16:2. Out of thanks to God, we set aside a regular offering to the Lord.

Peace Lutheran offers a secure Give by Text option. To donate via text, send the dollar amount you wish to give, including a dollar sign, to 888-314-2975. Example: \$40. You will receive a secure registration link.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jeff Kessler's sister was brutally attacked by a dog, sustained serious injury and has undergone surgery

A prayer: Almighty and merciful God in heaven, look with compassion on Jeff's sister who was seriously injured after being attacked by a dog. Look with compassion on her, her husband, and Jeff and Trish, whose hearts are heavy with anxiety and concern . Have mercy on Jeff's sister. And when it pleases you, grant her recovery from injuries and deliverance from suffering. Give them all an extra measure of grace to endure during these uncertain times, give them courage and peace. Strengthen Jeff's sister and all her loved ones with the assurance that you will do what is best. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Katie Kallestad's uncle died in a motorcycle accident this afternoon in Minnesota. The family is devastated. He was 41.

⁴ [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Heb 9:11–12). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

⁵ *Public confession of what we believe is faith's response to God's saving Word. Today we confess the Apostles' Creed.*

A prayer: God of compassion, you watch our ways and your ways are higher than our ways. Surround the Kallestad family and all those shaken by this accident with a vivid sense of your love, and keep them strong in the faith. Though they have grief; may they seek comfort in your love; through Jesus Christ who lives and rules over all creation. Amen.

Deb Palmer's daughter, hospitalized in MI: We pray to you, almighty God, in this time of crisis. Be our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Do not let us lose courage in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love and give us the strength we need. Help us in our confusion and guide our actions to honor you. Heal the hurt, console those who grieve, comfort the afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are in peril; for the sake of your great mercy; in Jesus' name. Amen. **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

C: 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.

BLESSING

M: 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

♪ All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.

♪ Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe On this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe And crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe And crown him Lord of all.

♪ Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.

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A Bible Study will be offered live on Sunday, April 5 @ 11:15 AM.

More opportunities for Bible study and worship during Holy Week:

- Palm Sunday, April 5 - Worship Online, 10:00 AM
- Palm Sunday, April 5 - Bible Study Online, 11:15 AM ([follow this link to online forum](#))
- Monday, April 6 – Holy Week Bible Study Online, 7:00 PM ([follow this link to online forum](#))
- Wednesday, April 8 – Holy Week Bible Study Online, 1:30 PM ([follow this link to online forum](#))
- Thursday, April 9 – Devotional Message Online
- Good Friday, April 10, Worship Online, 7:00 PM
- Easter Sunday, April 12 - Sunrise Worship Online, 7:00 AM
- Easter Sunday, April 12 - Easter Worship Online, 10:00 AM