

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

April 10, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

The Community Gathers

We will gather outside the front of the church to prepare for our Entrance Parade. Please accept a palm branch and prepare for our entrance into worship. In the event of inclement weather, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall.

Entrance Parade

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

L: Blessed is the Messiah who comes in humble victory.

P: Blessed is the Savior who rides through hope-songs and stone-weeping.

L: Blessed is the Messiah who entered the dangerous streets of Jerusalem long ago.

P: Blessed is the Savior who enters the uncertain terrain of our lives today.

(From "An Improbable Gift of Blessing" by Tirabassi and Grant, p.97)

Peace of Christ Blessing

Our Common Prayer

Hosanna, save us, you who stand on the threshold

While we fling the cloaks of praise before you.

Hosanna, save us, Messiah, so misunderstood.

Hosanna, save us and open the gates to us

Of hope and prayer and peace. Amen. *(ibid.)*

Scripture Lesson - Luke 19: 29-40

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

Palm Sunday Litany

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

P: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from lukewarm faith.

P: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from callous indifference.

P: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from paltry hopes and petty dreams.

P: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from unquenchable greed.

P: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from lazy habits and faithless commitments.

P: Hosanna. Save us.

L: Save us from soft-mindedness and hard-heartedness.

P: Hosanna. Save us.

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

P: Hosanna. Save us. Save us now.

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna,
 the little children sang;
 through 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.

2. 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.

3. "Hosanna in the highest!"
 that ancient song we sing,
 for Christ is our Redeemer,
 the Lord of heaven our King.
 O may we ever praise him
 with heart and life and voice,
 and in his blissful presence
 eternally rejoice!

The Story of Holy Week - Palm Sunday Readers Theatre *(written by Pastor Mary Kay Totty, 2021)*

Readers: Jacquelyn Forbes, Avery Rodocker, Doug Brand, Wess Robotham, Xander Foulk

Hymn of Reflection

In Remembrance of Me

TFWS 2254

¹ In remembrance of me, eat this bread.
 In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
 In remembrance of me, pray for a time
 when God's own will is done.

² In remembrance of me, heal the sick.
 In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
 In remembrance of me, open the door
 and let your neighbors in, let them in.

let them in. Take eat, and be comforted;
 drink and remember, too,
 that this is my body and precious blood shed for you,
 shed for you.

³ In remembrance of me, search for truth.
 In remembrance of me, always love.
 In remembrance of me, don't look above,
 but in your heart, look for God.
 Do this in remembrance of me.

The Story Continues...

Special Music

Reflections on Kelvingrove

Handbell Choir

Prayer of Confession

Holy and gentle God,
 We confess that we want you to meet our expectations
 rather than changing our lives to meet you.

We confess that we are often changeable and self-centered
like the Jerusalem crowd, shouting “Hosanna”
one day and “Crucify” the next.

We confess that we prefer the festivity of Palm Sunday
to the quiet sadness of Holy Week.

Forgive us all our sins and help us take up
our own crosses to follow you. AMEN.

Time of Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

L: When we cry “Hosanna,” God enter our lives with forgiveness.

P: **Hosanna. We are forgiven.**

L: We are forgiven. Thanks be.

P: **Amen and amen.**

(Tirabassi and Grant, ibid.)

The Prayers of the People

Please share your joys or concerns at the microphone or in the comments on Facebook or by texting us at 402-810-8900.

Prayer Hymn

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

TFWS 2200

O Lord, hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory

Dylan Teut

Prayer of Dedication

Thank you, God, for the greatest of all gifts, the saving action of Jesus Christ in human history. Your gift inspires our generous response. We bring our offerings and renewed commitment. Help us to be faithful disciples. Amen.

Hymn

The Summons

TFWS 2130

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5. Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Benediction

Pastor JoEllen Axthelm

Postlude

Dylan Teut

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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