



Seward United Methodist Church

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

Entrance Parade — Gather out front, have a Palm Parade into the Sanctuary as we sing “We are Marching in the Light of God”

Hymn

We Are Marching

TFWS 2235-b

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching . . . Ooo we are marching in light of God.
We are marching . . . Ooo we are marching in light of God.

We are singing . . .

We are praying . . .

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Alex Sommerfeld

Passing the Peace

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), may we grow, may our faith deepen and strengthen.

Common Prayer (in unison)

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.)*

Children’s Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson: Luke 19: 29-40

²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, “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. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were

untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As 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, ³⁸saying,

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

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰He 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.

~ posted on The Open Church website. <http://www.theopenchurchmd.org/1/archives/03-2012/1.html>

Hymn

Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

Verse 1

Praise is rising

Eyes are turning to You

We turn to You

Hope is stirring

Hearts are yearning for You

We long for You

Pre-Chorus

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
(Washed away)

Chorus

Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Verse 2

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

Ending

Hosanna hosanna

CCLI Song # 4662491
Brenton Brown | Paul Baloche
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The Story of Holy Week, a readers' theater presentation

Readers: Xander Foulk, Kiersten Hill, Curt Nelson, Mary Kay Totty

Writer: Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Special Music

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

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.

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.)

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn

Praise the Name of Jesus

TFWS 2066

Praise the name of Jesus
praise the name of Jesus.
He's my Rock, he's my Fortress,
he's my deliverer,
in him I trust.
Praise the name of Jesus.

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory
Doxology

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

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.

(from: "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" by Lavon Bayler, p. 52)

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant Pastors: Mary Kay Totty and JoEllen Axthelm

For Holy Communion, if at home, you may use whatever simple elements you have at hand — bread, crackers, pita, juice, water, wine. If you are at in person worship please follow the instructions given by the Pastor.

Prayers of the Great Thanksgiving (spoken responsively)

Our God is with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts,

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give our thanks to God.**

Heaven and earth sprang from your wisdom, O God, and you made us for your company.

**We turned away, and our love failed,
but you remained steadfast.**

You gave us room when we were in distress.

And so with all your people here, and all the company of heaven, we join in an unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might,
Hosanna in the highest!**

Everything that springs from your wisdom is blessed!

Hosanna in the Highest!

You lived among us as our teacher, held us, called us friends.

**You died and live again
to show us death is not the end.**

You took bread.

We remember.

You broke it.

We remember,

You shared it.

We ate. We remember.

You took the cup.

We remember.

You said "Drink".

We remember.

You shared it.

We drank. We remember.

And so today, we feast again; our bread and wine are you.

You live among us still, whenever we remember you.

We offer ourselves now —

In praise and thanksgiving.

We offer ourselves now —

Holy and living.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Come Holy Spirit, on us gathered here.

Be among us as we share these gifts of bread and wine.

May they become for us the bread of life and the cup of grace

that we may become Christ's love in the world.

God-incarnate, God-Spirit, and God-Source of All Beginnings,

All glory and honor are yours, now and forever. AMEN!

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Hymn

My Song is Love Unknown

TFWS 2083

1. My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake.
My God should take frail flesh and die?
My God should take frail flesh and die?

2. God Left the richest throne
salvation to bestow;
but Christ as flesh and bone
The world refused to know.
But, O my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need did life expend;
Who at my need did life expend.

3. Sometimes they threw down palms
And sweetest praises sang.
Hosannas and glad psalms
Through streets and markets rang.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,

4. What has my Sovereign done?
What makes this rage and spite?
Christ gave new strength to run,
Restored the gift of sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these

For blood and death they thirst and cry;
For blood and death they thirst and cry.

themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise;
Themselves displease, and 'gainst Christ rise.

⁵ I sing my plain belief,
One song my heart out pours:
Never was pain nor grief,
Never was love like yours.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend;
I all my days could gladly spend.

Benediction

Postlude

Alex Sommerfeld