

Sermon followed by Service

April 10, 2022

Philippians 2:1-11

Imagine, today we make a movie. Or should it be a video game? ... about Palm Sunday. We're all in it together with Jesus. In the movie, in the video game, who do you want to be? Do you want to be Judas, angry at Jesus? No. But it would be alright to be one of the other disciples, wouldn't it? Do you want to be the owner of the donkey trying to stop the disciples from taking your donkey for Jesus? No. But it would be alright to be the owner who says: "You say it's for Jesus? Then 'Yes.' Take it for Jesus. Take them both for Jesus. What else do you need for Jesus? If I have it; it's his!"

How about the crowd? Do you want to be one of the crowd, fired up to see Jesus, praising Jesus? Or do you want to be one of the whiners, "Do we have to go? I don't want to go!" That's like asking if you want to be Judas, isn't it? In the crowd, wouldn't it be cool to be the first one to shout: "**Hosanna to the Son of David?**" ... and everybody joins in? Wouldn't it be great to join in shouting: "**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**" ... and Jesus gives you the thumbs-up? Or maybe you'd like to be one of the crowd waving palm branches, spreading palm branches before Jesus. Or maybe one of the crowd taking off your jacket, and Jesus sits on your jacket. Or you spread your jacket on the road; why? You want Jesus to be treated like a king.

But that's not everybody in the crowd, is it? You hear some in the crowd telling others to give up their jackets. You see some helping others take off their jackets, but they pull their own jackets tight; they keep their own jackets on. Do you want to be them? No, that would be like being Judas. We don't want to be Judas. We don't want to be the whiners in the crowd. We want to cheer Jesus! We want to celebrate what Jesus is doing! **We want to celebrate Christ's ministry!**

Today we get to see our place, our role with Jesus - not just in a movie or video game. We get to see our place with Jesus in real life! That's right, Jesus has given you a role, a place in his life. You get to see him as king! You get to see him as champion against evil, as destroyer of death. Yes, you get to see Jesus as Son of God, ruling over the universe, with angels answering his call to protect us, defend us, keep us safe. We get to see Jesus as our Lord and Savior, promising peace and life and heaven.

But that's not all. We get to do more than just watch Jesus; we get an action role with Jesus. What is our role? Oh, just to be a beggar before Jesus would be blessing. But we get to be more than beggars before Jesus. Just to be a cheerleader, or to be up in the bleachers cheering, would be great. But we get to be more than cheerleaders. We get to be more than beggars begging Jesus; we get to be more than cheerleaders cheering Jesus. We get to be united with Christ. Better than any friend on Facebook, better than any connection on LinkedIn, we are united with Christ, partners with Christ.

What does that mean for you? When Jesus sees someone needing help, he works his help through you. When Jesus sees someone needing love, he nudges your heart to share his love through you. When Jesus sees someone needing him, he looks to step into their life through you. What's our role? We get to be Jesus for the world around us!

How can that be? When I look at the heart and mind of Christ in our lesson, I don't see myself like Jesus. I don't love like Jesus. I don't obey like Jesus. So how can I be Jesus to the world? How can I be the way Jesus wants to work in this world?

How? Let's take a closer look at the heart and mind of Jesus in our lesson. In heaven he had the glory of God. He had the angels praising him, worshiping him. He had it made. And he let it go. He gave up his throne to be made a servant. Why? He got up off his comfy chair to do our work, to clean up our mess, to die our death. That's right, Jesus left the life of heaven to go through hell, to be crucified and killed for us. Why? So God can see your work done; your sin, your guilt paid for ... so God can see you covered with the perfect life of Jesus, forgiven, right for life with God.

Not just covered with Jesus, but connected with Jesus. What does that mean for us? When we find our self on the battlefield of evil, what do you get to know? You have Christ in your corner; you're connected. When death haunts, what do you get to know? You're connected to the Resurrection and the Life. When you're in a jam, and you need something more than yourself ... when the people in your life are in a jam, and they need something more than just you, what do you get to know? You're not "just you"; you're not on your own. You are connected to Christ. More than a beggar ... more than a cheerleader ... united with Christ, you have Christ; you get to bring Jesus into your world with you!

That's something worth celebrating, isn't it? Jesus doesn't keep us on our knees as beggars. He doesn't put us off to the side just to cheer him. He takes us as his own. He puts his heart and Spirit in us. He works his power in us and through us. We - you get to be the heart and the hands and the mouthpiece of Jesus.

Why? Not so we can get ahead in this world, but so that we can be like Jesus in this world - serving his world. ... giving up our pride for the good of others. ... giving up our riches for the good of others. ... giving up our comfort for the good of others. ... giving up our time for the good of others. ... giving up ourselves for the good of others.

What do we think of that? Oh, I have a Judas inside me, always looking out for self. And there's that whiner inside me: "not more, not again." And there's that comfy-chair-cheerleader inside me waiting for somebody else to do what I should be doing.

And I'm not alone there, am I? We all have some sort of Judas, whiner, or comfy-chair-cheerleader inside us, don't we? But we don't let them have their way. We're united with Christ! We have his love. We're together with his Spirit. We share his mind and heart. We don't want to avoid the Palm Sunday crowd. We want to be part of the Palm Sunday crowd, celebrating Christ's ministry.

It's not always easy, is it? The Judas and the whiner and the comfy-chair-cheerleader in us get stuck on the cost and the time and the sacrifice. But what does Paul show us? There's more to ministry than the pain and the cost of sacrifice; we get to live and serve with the hope, the certainty of a better life ahead of us! Think about Jesus. In the end, after all of Jesus' sacrifice, what did Jesus lose? What did Jesus miss out on? He gave up heaven, but today he rules in heaven. He gave up his glory, but today **"God [has] exalted him to the highest place [with] the name that is above every name."** Yes, Jesus became a servant, but today he is Lord.

And what about us? We get to celebrate and jump into ministry knowing we have a better life ahead of us. As we celebrate and jump into ministry with Christ, we might give up some self time, but we have the forever of heaven coming. We might give up some self-spending, but we have the riches of heaven coming. We might have less of this world for self, but we have the more of heaven coming - with Jesus! So let's join the Palm Sunday crowd in celebrating Christ's ministry. How? By joining in his ministry, joining in what Jesus has for us to do! Amen.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church



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We Welcome Our Guests

We pray that all who are with us today are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns and by an encouraging and warm welcome. Our worship service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ - forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven. The notes below may be helpful for your worship and time with us today. If you have questions, please ask! We are blessed to have you with us!

Our Communion Practice

We practice close communion, the Biblical and ancient practice of the church, celebrating the Lord's Supper only with those who are close and united with us in faith and teaching. In this sacrament we give public confession of our doctrinal unity and fellowship; therefore, we invite visitors from sister WELS and ELS congregations to join us in the sacrament. We ask our fellow Christians from other denominations to kindly respect our practice and to refrain from the Lord's Supper at this time. If you have questions please speak with the pastor.

We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us for worship. Children's worship bulletins and "church bags" (with paper, colors, and Bible story books) are available from an usher. Baby noises can be beautiful to our Savior who said, "Let the little children come to me." If children are crying loudly, our nursery and Gathering Area (back of the church) are audio-equipped and available for you and your young children. After the children regain their composure, come back so we can all worship together.

We Care about Your Special Needs

Large Print Service Folders are available from an usher. *Hearing Assistance* for those with hearing aids is provided through our *Hearing Loop*. More information is available from an usher. A *wheelchair lift* is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.

Our Facilities Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.

Our Vision of Ministry

We will be a vibrant family of Christians growing in faith, love, and action. We will strive to be known for truth (God's Word) and love (Jesus' great gift) and to offer a worship and congregation life that not only connects us with Christ, but with each other and our community. As part of our ministry ...

St. John offers an excellent preschool and K-8 program.

St. John is a ministry partner with...

Shoreland Lutheran High School - www.shorleandlutheranhigh.org

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) - www.wels.net.

Palm Sunday

April 10, 2022

Pre-Service Music

Palm Sunday Selections - Valerie Floeter
My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, Lord - Michael Burkhardt
All Glory Laud and Honor - James Engel
Winchester New - Jim Vyhanek
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna - John Carter

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION



(Our children will join in a palm processional through the church to the altar during our first hymn. The children gather before the service in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45.)

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... We see the heart of Jesus; ready and willing to give himself up to meet our needs.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: 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.

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us go forth in peace,

C: **In the name of the Lord.**

PALM PROCESSIONAL

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"
Hymn 412

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 Blessed 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*

To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*

As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, our good and gracious King. *Refrain*

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

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Zechariah 9:9-10

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.

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.

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

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

School Song

“In My Life, Be Glorified”

By Bob Kilpatrick

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In my song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In my song, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In my school, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In my school, Lord, be glorified today.

In my home, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In my home, Lord, be glorified today.

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 2:1-11

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

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

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 19:28-40

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.' "

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They replied, "The Lord needs it."

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

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

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

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

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

CONFESSION OF FAITH The Second Article Explanation of the Apostles Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet"

Hymn 414

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!"

What fading flow'rs his road adorn; the palms, how soon laid down!
No bloom or leaf but only thorn the King of glory's crown.
The soldiers mock, the rabble cries, the streets with tumult ring,
as Pilate to the mob replies, "Behold, behold your King!"

Now he who bore for mortals' sake the cross and all its pains
and chose a servant's form to take, the King of glory reigns.
Hosanna to the Savior's name till heaven's rafters ring,
and all the ransomed host proclaim "Behold, behold your King!"

SERMON

Philippians 2

HYMN

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Hymn 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.

PRAYER

M: Lord Jesus, you entered Jerusalem to take up your final steps to the cross. You came as a conquering, yet humble, King. Your victory was won through your death on the cross and your triumphant resurrection. You came not to be served, but to serve, and to give your life as a ransom for many. Jesus, humble King,

C: **Help us to follow in your footsteps.**

M: Lord Jesus, help us by your Spirit to serve others as you served and sacrificed your life for us. Work through our hands and eyes and hearts to bring comfort and hope to those in need. Jesus, humble King,

C: **Help us to follow in your footsteps.**

M: Lord Jesus, we live now in your kingdom, yet we long for the day when we will see you return in glory as King and Judge. Until that day, help us to be faithful servants and citizens of your kingdom. Jesus, humble King,

C: **Help us to follow in your footsteps.**
Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

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: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

Hymn 411

Children v. 1 & 2

Congregation v. 4 & 5

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!
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 pow'r and reign.

Postlude

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" by Michael Burkhardt

"Winchester New" by Craig Hirschmann

SPECIAL THANKS

We thank our children for blessing our worship. We thank Anna Haakenson for accompanying them on the piano.

OFFERING

For your thank offerings, we have an offering plate in the front of the church and an old wooden church in our Narthex Gathering Area.

*If you prefer online giving, you may scan
this code with your mobile device.*



(You heard our school children sing today. Tuition Grant Fund envelopes are available in the pew rack to support affordable tuition for our school.)

Acknowledgements

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Maundy Thursday	April 14	6:30pm
Good Friday	April 15	7:00pm
Easter Service	April 17	9:00am
Easter Fellowship	April 17	10:00am
Easter Service	April 17	11:00am

(No worship service on Saturday, April 16)

Maundy Thursday Jesus, the Son of God himself, invites you to the Upper Room to show you “the full extent of his love.” Join him at his table as he gives you his body and blood, “given and shed for you, for the forgiveness of your sins.” Witness the Rite of the Stripping of the Altar and strengthen your resolve to never abandon the Lord. (Plan to leave the service quietly, reflecting on the love of our Lord.)

Good Friday Alone in the dark, forsaken by God, Jesus pays for your sin and the sin of the world. Join us for a Good Friday Tenebrae Service, a service of shadows and darkness, reminding us of the darkness of our sin and guilt, the darkness of the world’s hate and anger against God, and, yes, the darkness of God’s curse on our sin, all charged against Jesus.

In a Tenebrae service, candles are extinguished and lights are dimmed to impress on us the utter darkness and loneliness, the horrible curse that Jesus faced on the cross. As you hear of Jesus’ burial and the service closes, expect to hear the *strepitus* and see a sign of hope. (Again, plan to leave the service quietly, reflecting on the love of our Lord.)

Easter Sunday We can’t wait for the sun to come up! We have a living Jesus to meet! Join us for Easter service at 9, food and fellowship at 10, and Service at 11. You don’t have to be quiet leaving this service – rejoice and tell your world the best news of the year - Jesus lives!