

The Sunday of the Passion, year A

April 5, 2020 ✝ Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Worship in the home

As we live into this time of worshipping together while being physically apart, we have an opportunity to re-discover the joy of the early Church and their worship in homes.

As you consider where this might happen in your home, perhaps setting aside a place that you can use each week would be helpful. Even if it's a dining table that is used for other things during the week, having a cloth to cover the table in the color of the season (today we begin scarlet color for Holy Week), a candle, and a cross, can remind you of the sanctity of all places. Such a place is holy because it is used for feeding (or other purposes, depending on where you choose) and, at times, for prayer. And remember, if you can find a way by phone or screen to invite others separated by distance into your time of prayer this morning, that will be a blessing to all.

Focus on the Season: Sunday of the Passion, year A

We begin Holy Week with the entrance of our Lord Jesus into Jerusalem. Though the crowd welcomed him with palms and hosannas, Jesus entered Jerusalem knowing he was facing his death. His entrance consciously evoked a royal entrance of ancient Israelite kings, but it isn't until we contemplate his Passion that we fully understand the kind of Ruler Jesus is for us and for the world. It is in Christ's suffering love and willing walk to the cross for the sake of the world that we see the fullness of the Triune God's love for us and the creation.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your prayer today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. However, you can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering: Procession with Palms

Light your candle.

In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther invites you to begin devotions – separately or together – making the sign of the cross and naming God into your midst:

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

GREETING

Link to video; includes dialogs and reading of the Processional Gospel

☞ Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

☞ Hosanna in the highest!

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11 (*video on previous link*)

¹ When Jesus and the disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just

say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

BLESSING OF PALMS *(done in each home)*

Hold your palm branches up. A branch from outside, with leaves if possible, or one of the colored palm branches that were sent out on Friday will work well. One of those present should act as leader (L).

L Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen

L Let us go forth in peace,

G in the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSION HYMN: ELW 346, "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

[Link to audio](#)

All may walk around the dwelling with the branches/palms as the hymn is sung, and return to the worship place. (Hymn sung at Mount Olive on Sunday of the Passion, year B, March 25, 2018)

Word

INVITATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

[Link to a video of this and the readings](#)

P Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

G Hosanna in the highest!

P As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Brief silence.

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen

P Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

G Hosanna in the highest!

¹⁷ On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹ and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" ²³ He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

³² But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." ³³ Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." ³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." ⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." ⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸ But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This fellow said, 'I am

able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.”⁶² The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”⁶³ But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man
seated at the right hand of Power
and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy.”⁶⁶ What is your verdict?” They answered, “He deserves death.”⁶⁷ Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him,⁶⁸ saying, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”⁷⁰ But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.”⁷¹ When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”⁷² Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.”⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”⁷⁴ Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed.⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

27 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death.² They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

³ When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders.⁴ He said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”⁵ Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.⁶ But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.”⁷ After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners.⁸ For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.⁹ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price,¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.”¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?”¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas.¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.”²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.²¹ The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.”²² Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!”²³ Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him.²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”³⁰ They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.³¹ After

mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

³⁸ Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴² "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" ⁴⁴ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸ At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Silence is kept

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

⁵⁵ Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶ So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

PASSION HYMN: ELW 343, "My Song Is Love Unknown"

[Link to audio](#)

We sing our response to this Word of God. (Hymn sung at Mount Olive on Sunday of the Passion, year A, April 9, 2017)

SERMON

Mundane and Mysterious

Vicar Bristol Reading

This is a link to the video of the sermon. [Link to the text on the Mount Olive website.](#)

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Our Assisting Minister for today, David Anderson, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. We add to our prayers Joel Crandall and Erica Johnsen, who are ill.

Pray these aloud, perhaps with one as leader if there are more than one gathered, and add any you feel drawn to add.

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Silence

God of mercy, awaken your church to new proclamations of your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of your hope and redemption. We rejoice with those who celebrate their baptisms this day: Lila, Leila, Sandra, Andrew, David, and Don. *God, in your mercy . . .*

God of mercy, quiet the earth where it trembles and shales. Protect vulnerable ecosystems, threatened habitats, and endangered species. Prosper the world of scientists, engineers, and researchers who find ways to restore creation to health and wholeness. *God, in your mercy . . .*

God of mercy, we cry out for healing in our troubled world. Calm our fears, but make us mindful. Empower doctors, nurses, medical staff members to bring healing and comfort, but keep them safe. Comfort those who face dying without loved ones at hand, and bring peace to their families in this difficult time. *God, in your mercy . . .*

God of mercy, drive away fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who seek liberation for the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those who are in prison and those who face execution. *God, in your mercy . . .*

God of mercy, your word is spoken by loving actions throughout the world: In Africa where Phil Knutson labors in South Africa and at Bronnum Seminary where pastors and workers are prepared to share your Gospel; in South Minneapolis where Lake Street Council works to ensure diversity and prosperity and Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association works to enhance the lives of residents in our community. Strengthen them and prosper their work on our behalf. *God, in your mercy . . .*

God of mercy, send your saving help to all who suffer abuse, insult, discrimination, or contempt. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying. Bring peace to those suffering chronic or terminal illness. Tend to all who cry out for relief, especially Joel, Erica, and those whom we now name before you . . . *God, in your mercy . . .*

God of mercy, as we prepare for Holy Week, we pray for those who will lead us to contemplate in unusual ways your saving acts. Even without the temporal reminders so dear to us, show us the ways that you call is to die to self, to live for you, and to give ourselves for the sake of others. Let your word of Resurrection thunder to our beleaguered world which hungers for hope and wholeness. *God, in your mercy . . .*

Add any petitions you feel drawn to pray.

God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth, especially Benedict the African, Albrecht, Lucas, Matthias, Michelangelo, Dietrich, Mikael, and those we name before you . . . , let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope. *God, in your mercy . . .*

Whatever else you see that we and the world need, grant us O God, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. [Link here.](#)

PEACE

Please greet others with Christ's peace. If you haven't called someone to join this prayer together, perhaps you might take the time now to call another and wish them peace.

LORD'S PRAYER AND BLESSING

Pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Someone may offer a blessing on behalf of all:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard and keep our hearts and minds in + Christ Jesus. Amen.

HYMN: ELW 342, "There in God's Garden"

[Link to audio](#)

From the 2016 CD "Mount Olive Sings"

