

His Final Steps Led to a Donkey

April 2, 2022



Palm Sunday

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We pray that Jesus' words of forgiveness will be yours as you worship with us today! If you have any questions or would like more information about our Church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out the guest register at the Church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Indents and boldened letters indicate congregational responses.

We follow in procession through the left door following the candles and the cross. As you cross in front of the altar place your palm fronds upon the step. Continue to follow the procession to your seats. We will begin with the invocation upon the front steps.

Today's readings and Theme – Hail the King who humbly comes to save us! For 1700 years the Church has celebrated with Hosannas and palm branches this festival that opens Holy Week. The time for Christ's glory had come. He would not, however, gain glory in the manner of other kings. Rather, he would humble himself in great acts of love for us.

MORNING PRAYER

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you 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.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: SERVICE OF THE WORD – CW, p.38



INVOCATION

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also, with you.

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.

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

Hosanna in the highest!

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.

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of the Lord.

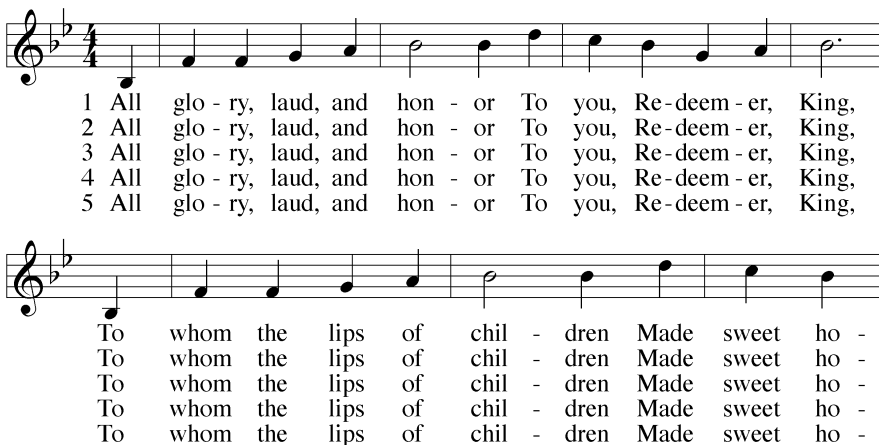
Congregation will process in following the cross and candles.

OPENING HYMN:

#131

ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR

**** PLEASE STAND FOR THE LAST VERSE ****



1 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To you, Re-deem - er, King,
2 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To you, Re-deem - er, King,
3 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To you, Re-deem - er, King,
4 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To you, Re-deem - er, King,
5 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To you, Re-deem - er, King,

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho -
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho -
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho -
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho -
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho -



san - nas ring. You are the King of Is - rael
san - nas ring. The com - pa - ny of an - gels
san - nas ring. The peo - ple of the He - brews
san - nas ring. To you be - fore your pas - sion
san - nas ring. As you re - ceived their prais - es,

And Da - vid's roy - al Son, Now in the
Is prais - ing you on high, And we with
With palms be - fore you went; Our praise and
They sang their hymns of praise; To you, now
Ac - cept the prayers we bring, O Source of

Lord's name com - ing, Our King and bless - ed one.
all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.
prayer and an - thems Be - fore you we pre - sent.
high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 762–821; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN (76 76 D) Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.

CONFESSION OF SINS

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. 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.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you 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.

C: A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

ZECHARIAH 9: 9, 10

Zechariah tells Jerusalem to rejoice when the messianic King comes to her, because he will have with him the righteousness she needs and the salvation she craves. This King would surpass the glory and power of all Israel's kings before him. King David's rule extended to the River Euphrates at its farthest—but this King's rule would to the very ends of the earth, from sea to sea.

Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! Look! Your King is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation. He is humble and is riding on a donkey, on a colt, the

foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. The battle bow will be taken away, and he will proclaim peace to the nations. His kingdom will extend from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 24



Refrain

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,*
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it upon the seas*
and established it upon the waters.
Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?*
Who may stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,*
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?*
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is he, this King of glory?*
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 2: 5 – 11

Jesus is our King, but he came humbly to save us. Though true God, he became man. Though all powerful, he became a servant. Though immortal and eternal, he died. He not only laid aside his glory, but he took our shame upon him.

Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (John 12:23)

*****Please Stand*****

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21: 1 - 11

The great King comes to his city and to his temple! He could have come with all the power and glory of the Son of God. He could have ridden a thunderstorm as his chariot with legions of angels striding beside him and creation itself singing forth the praise of its Maker. But look how he comes: Not on the storm, but on a donkey; not accompanied by heavenly warriors, but by fishermen and a tax collector.

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, telling them, “Go to the village ahead of you. Immediately you will find a donkey tied there along with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: Tell the daughter of Zion: Look, your King comes to you, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The disciples went and did just as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their outer clothing on them, and he sat on it. A very large crowd spread their outer clothing on the road. Others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them out on the road. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed kept shouting, Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, asking, “Who is this?” And the crowds were saying, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

****Please Be Seated****

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#363

THE KING OF GLORY COMES

Refrain



The King of glo - ry comes; the na - tion re - joic - es.



O - pen the gates be - fore him; lift up your voic - es.



1 Who is the King of glo - ry? How shall we call him?
2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
3 He gave his life for us, the lamb of sal - va - tion;
4 He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en,

Refrain



He is Im - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
He goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
He took up - on him - self the sin of the na - tions.
And he will share with us his heav - en - ly king - dom.

Text: Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, alt. © 1966, 1985 Willard F. Jabusch (admin. OCP Publications).
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Tune: PROMISED ONE (12 12 with Refrain) Israeli melody, 20th century.

SERMON:

His Final Steps Led to a Donkey

SERMON TEXT

MATTHEW 21: 1 – 11

****Please Stand****

APOSTLES' CREED

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 – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR PALM SUNDAY

Lord Jesus, you are the King of heaven and earth. We join the first Palm Sunday worshipers in praising and glorifying you for coming to this earth to be our Savior.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Though you are one with God the Father and Lord of all, you humbled yourself and because one with us. Thanks be to you for being obedient to death, even death on a cross to redeem us from sin.

Hosanna to the KING of Kings!

Cause our voices to blend with those who sang your praises as you rode into Jerusalem. Move us to confess you before others as our Lord. Help us proclaim the message of peace and forgiveness to people of all nations.

Hosanna to the LORD of Lords!

Use us to assure all people that your blood has cleansed them from sin and set them free from slavery to sin, death, and the devil.

Move us to dedicate all we are and have to your glory.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Dear Savior, as we walk with you this week toward Calvary, keep us focused on your purpose for coming into this world and on our calling to spread this wonderful message of salvation. Hear us for your mercy's sake.

Hosanna to our Savior! 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.

Please Be Seated

HYMN:

#370

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels
 2 Hail him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid
 3 Sin - ners whose love can ne'er for - get The worm - wood
 4 Let ev - 'ry kin - dred, ev - 'ry tribe On this ter -
 5 Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at his



pros - trate fall; Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And
 Lord did call, The God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, And
 and the gall, Go, spread your tro - phies at his feet And
 res - trial ball To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe And
 feet may fall! We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song And



crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the roy - al
 crown him Lord of all. The God in - car - nate,
 crown him Lord of all. Go, spread your tro - phies
 crown him Lord of all. To him all maj - es -
 crown him Lord of all. We'll join the ev - er -



di - a - dem And crown him Lord of all.
 Man di - vine, And crown him Lord of all.
 at his feet And crown him Lord of all.
 ty as - cribe And crown him Lord of all.
 last - ing song And crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-92, st. 1-3, abr., alt.; *A Selection of Hymns*, London, 1787, st. 4-5, alt.
 Tune: CORONATION (86 86 86) Oliver Holden, 1765-1844.

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



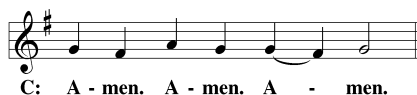
BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace and live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



CLOSING HYMN:

Beautiful Savior

#369



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions.



Son of God and Son of Man!
 Robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 Bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, Tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er;
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o - ra - tion



Text: *Münsterisch Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677, abr.; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904.
 Tune: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU (557 558) Silesian folk tune, 19th century, alt.

What We believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Lilies – Thank you, everyone, who signed up for Easter Lilies. You could still bring one if you missed signing up to bring them. All lilies need to be at church by April 8 when setting up the church (from 4 – 5:00 pm.) If that does not work, you can still bring them on Easter morning. Once again, thank you, Grace family.

Lenten Services –We have a Midweek opportunity for you to be in God’s word. Maundy Thursday: April 6, and Good Friday: April 7 at 7:00 pm. Just a reminder during the Maundy Thursday Service, you will witness the stripping of the altar as a reminder of Jesus’ disciples abandoning him in the garden. Good Friday will be the Service of Darkness with the last words from the cross. Both are somber services, and we ask that you leave on Thursday and return on Friday in silence. Friday, we will leave in darkness and silence.

Easter Service - Easter will be at the standard service time; however, there will be no Sunday School or communion. Communion will be offered on Maundy Thursday.

Sunday Morning Bible Study –What are your questions about the book of Acts? I challenge you to bring me your questions. Come and go as you wish! We start around 9:00 am; reading is always voluntary; bring your questions.

Midweek Bible Study – We have again paused our Midweek Bible Study. However, you are encouraged to use the daily devotions until April 11, when we will resume our study of Romans.

Council Meeting – Grace is your church! Please inform Charlie Vandelicht if you would like a copy of our minutes from last month’s meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm April 14 at Gene’s home.

Strategic planning – It is hard to believe, but it has been two years since our last strategic planning with the congregation. And we need more feedback. There will be a survey sent to you in the next few weeks. So please look for this and send it back in so we can compile and prepare for our strategic planning.

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