

Passion Sunday/Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020 10:00 am

Spanaway Lutheran Church

16001 A Street South
Spanaway, Washington
(253) 531-7000

Passion Sunday/Palm Sunday

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Before worship, speak to God in prayer.

During worship, listen to God.

After worship, speak to each other.

Welcome To Our Worship. *During these uncertain times, we are bringing you our worship in an abbreviated form. We hope you will find hope, love and peace this week. We ARE the church and please know that you are part of this community. This might be a very unconventional worship, but it is brought forward with prayers and love for you all.*

Prayer Requests and Announcements. *If you have a prayer request, or wish for Pastor to make an announcement for you, please email or call the office and we will update our prayer list for next Sunday.*

INTRODUCTION

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 26:14--27:66

In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

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

C Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If 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 he 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.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty



Ride on!____ ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark!
 Ride on!____ ride on in ma - jes - ty! In
 Ride on!____ ride on in ma - jes - ty! The
 Ride on!____ ride on in ma - jes - ty! In



all the tribes ho - san - na cry;____ thy
 low - ly pomp ride on____ to die;____ O
 an - gel ar - mies of____ the sky____ look
 low - ly pomp ride on____ to die;____ bow



hum - ble beast pur - sues____ his road with
 Christ, thy tri - umphs now____ be - gin o'er
 down with sad and won - dering eyes to
 thy meek head to mor - tal pain, then



palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
 cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 see the-ap - proach - ing sac - cri - fice.
 take, O God, thy power____ and reign.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE

A Song to the Lamb

*All splendor, honor, kingly power are yours, O Lord, by right;
for you created all that is, your will brought them to light;*

*And yours by right, O Lamb once slain, for your blood now has won
a royal priesthood for our God from every race and tongue.*

*And so to Christ the Lamb and him who sits upon the throne,
Dominion, splendor, worship, praise forevermore be shown.*

SECOND LESSON

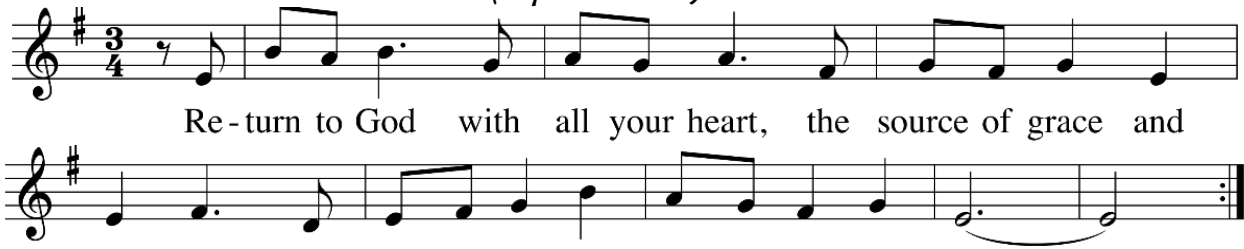
Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him

the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(repeat once)*



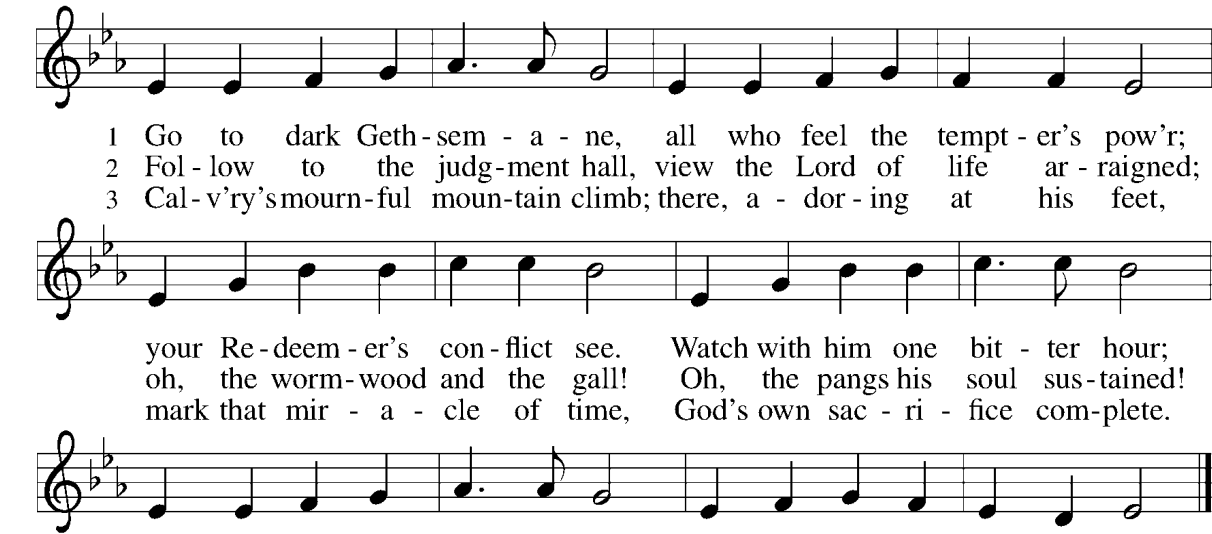
Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PASSION READING

THE READING OF THE HOLY PASSION *Matthew 26:14—27:66*

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise to you, O Christ.

MEDITATIVE HYMN *Go to Dark Gethsemane* **ELW 347**



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**“catholic” means “universal”*

THE PRAYERS

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

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 redemption.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

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.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 Kim Cleveland, Dave Pearcy, Lenville Sutherland, Angie Rivera, **Justin & Adri Wright Osborn, Glen Ruediger, Kathy Olsen, Richard, Olsen, David Yu, Natalie Yu and baby Jonathon, Al Wright, Joseph Lustig, and all we now mention** before you (*brief pause*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, we pray for all who will prepare and lead worship in this Holy Week. In all things, show us the ways that you call us to die to self, to live for you, and to give of ourselves for the sake of others.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth, let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C And also with you.**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

P God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

BENEDICTION

P Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, † bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

Cover picture: Cover: *Entry of Christ into Jerusalem* (fresco) by Lippo Memmi (1291–1356). Collegiata of San Gimignano, Italy. Copyright © iStock/Jorisvo. Used by permission.