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**Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion**

“Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.” *Psalm 118:19*

**AS WE GATHER**

“Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord” (Psalm 118:19). Today’s psalm speaks of gates opening for the people of God to enter into His holy presence. These are not any old gates; these are the “gates of righteousness.” As the outstretched arms and nail-scarred hands of our Savior welcome us all to enter these gates, we walk by faith into the presence of the faithful Father who freely gives us His forgiveness. Palm Sunday is the “gate” of Holy Week. As we gather for worship, let us walk through this gate with Jesus, our King, remembering His suffering for our salvation, and receiving again the gifts of God that inspire in us our thanks and praise.

**+ PROCESSION OF PALMS +**

**INVOCATION and PRAYER**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Hosanna to the Son of David.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 12:12-19

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor: The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,
 “Fear not, daughter of Zion, behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”
 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”* (*LSB* 442)

**SENTENCES**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: All hail to Jesus, the King of our lives! Lift up your hearts and rejoice in Him!

**People: He came from the very throne of God, but He gave that up to suffer a criminal’s death on the cross.**

Pastor: But God raised Him up that the ends of the earth may bow before Him as their King!

**People: Jesus Christ is Lord! Hosanna!**

Pastor: In Him is forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

**People: Have mercy on us, Lord! Bless us with Your peace! Hosanna! Hosanna!**

**+ PREPARATION +**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *1 Thessalonians 5:23*

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious, heavenly Father.

**All: Eternal God, we confess that we were born sinful and have continued to sin in thought, word, and deed. O God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin and renew Your Spirit within us that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. For the sake of Jesus, our Lord, forgive our sins and direct us in ways of compassion and love.**

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in +peace.

**People: Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”* (*LSB* 443)

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 50:4-9a *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** Philippians 2:5-11 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PASSION HISTORY** Matthew 26:1—27:66 *(partially in bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”* (*LSB* 442)

**SERMON “*The Gate”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer.**

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PEACE OF THE LORD**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“The Lamb”* (*LSB* 547, vs. 1-4)

*“Go to Dark Gethsemane”* (*LSB* 436)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. As Lord of our lives, strengthen and support us so that we continue to proclaim Your redeeming love shown in the suffering and death of Jesus Christ to all the world. Bless us day by day and keep us filled with hope as we await Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”* (*LSB* 441)

**Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Divine Service**

**Good Friday - 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae**

**Saturday - 5:00 p.m. Vigil**

**Easter Sunday - 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Services of the Word**