



Sunday of the Passion – A

April 5, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our Mission: Make Christ Known to All in Word and Deed

Welcome to worship at Redeemer. We believe in the life-giving, inclusive and forgiving love of God manifest through his Son, Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate God's wonderful gifts through hearing his Word, singing, and prayer.

Today's worship emphasis: 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.

The Altar flowers are given by Jim Epting in loving memory of Betty Epting.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

525 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Telephone: 803-772-5419

Visit us on the world wide web at www.relu.church

The Reverend Gary Loadholdt, Pastor

Jim Boatwright, Music Director

Jay Shuping, Parish Financial Administrator

Amanda Burke, Director of Youth,

Family Ministries, and Outreach

Nancy Bouknight, Preschool Director

Debbie Suydam, Parish Secretary

Carmen Braddy, Nursery Worker

pastorgary@relu.church

jboat@relu.church

jshuping@relu.church

aburke@relu.church

redeemer234@gmail.com

dsuydam@relu.church

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Gathering

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

Hosanna to the Son of David.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

Entrance Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. Refrain
4. To you, before your Passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. Refrain
5. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
Great author of all goodness, O good and gracious king. Refrain

The hymn of praise is omitted during lent.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**
We sit.

Word

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 50:4-9a

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience in the midst of persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

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 wakens—
wakens 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

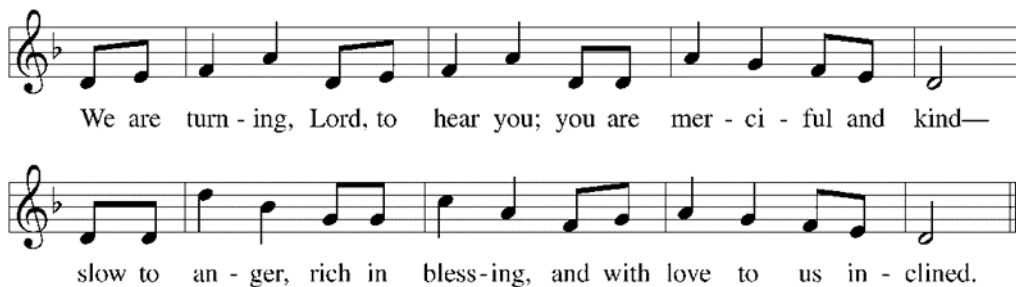
from insult and spitting.

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?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 26th and 27th chapters.

Glory to you, O Lord. *Spoken boldly!*

The Passion of Our Lord According to St. Matthew

There will be a brief time of silence for wonder and meditation on what we have heard.

ANTHEM

Ride On!

Taylor Davis

NICENE CREED *We stand.*

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God's creation.

We kneel or sit as we are able.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

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.**

Sending

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Heritage of Faith

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists

Monday, April 6, 2020

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Thursday, April 9, 2020

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557

Friday, April 10, 2020

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

Enter the Story

Annually the church the world over traces Jesus' "triumphal entry" into the city of Jerusalem. A donkey and colt symbolize Jesus' rule, humble and lowly. Nothing is shaped as expected, yet everything is as needed. To enter the scene, we'll use many senses.

Listen! The braying of humble animals mixes sweetly with boisterous shouts of praise: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matt. 21:9).

Smell! People young and old, doves and goats, spices and spring blooms. The crowd is filled with the scents of fishing nets and barns, of vineyards and hostels.

Open-eyed, look around! See colorful cloaks and branches spread on the ground, creating a pathway for the donkey and its rider. See children hoisted above their elders, each straining to catch sight of Jesus, on whom all their hopes are pinned for a better life and a lovelier world.

This Holy Week, we are invited to enter into the story with senses newly awakened. As you listen to the gospel today, what do you hear that you've never heard before? What parts of the narrative come to life that in earlier years you may have missed? Today as you wave a palm and perhaps join in a procession, can you imagine yourself in the crowd that surrounded Jesus?

Are you asking anything of the people beside you? Do you know the dreams of freedom dear to them? Have you shared your hopes for a better world rooted in Jesus' way of humility? Are you willing to risk making something of a scene today, in ways that might attract some attention, prompting neighbors to echo the question in Jerusalem so long ago when "the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'" (Matt. 21:10). Then, in words and actions may we all respond that the one at our center is "the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee" (Matt. 11:11).

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