



PALM SUNDAY

Hosanna in the Highest

APRIL 5, 2020

Introduction and Welcome

Call to Worship

Today, we remember Jesus' triumphal entrance into the city of Jerusalem. What a parade that was! Today, especially, we remember how Jesus came for us, lived for us, taught us about following him, and took the journey to death on a cross. Let us give thanks for his amazing gift of love.

Reading the Word Matthew 21:1-11

Message "Quite an Entrance!"

Rev Deb Hanson

Prayer

Loving God, we stand on the threshold of Holy Week today, remembering how Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem and was greeted with a great and joyous celebration. We also know during the week that followed, Jesus gradually took a path to death on a cross. And help us to know that he willingly gave his life for us so that we might have life everlasting. Forgive us for the many times we forget the depth of his love, a love for us that was so deep and wide that he was willing to die for our sins. Forgive us for taking his life, death, and resurrection for granted. Thank you for the forgiveness that is ours when we ask. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who are 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. Amen.

A Liturgy for When We Cannot Meet (Rev. Deb & Dave)

Blessing



SERMON TRANSCRIPT GIVEN BY
REV. DR. DEB HANSON

When circumstances and concern for the common good keep us from gathering to share the Holy Communion in person we gather to pray, separated in the body, yet ONE IN THE SPIRIT and ONE IN CHRIST JESUS!!

Before beginning, gather a candle and matches (or a small lamp), a Bible, a piece of bread, and a small glass of water.

CENTERING: Recognizing the presence of God

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Christ is with us.

The Risen One has met us, blessed and fed us on the road that leads us home.

The community of the Holy Spirit is with us.

We gather with the communion of the saints in light throughout history and with God's people around the world.

With brothers and sisters, absent in body but united in Spirit, we pray:

Holy One, Trinity of grace and power,

Maker and Mother, Beloved and Lover, Father and Friend:

Thanks be to you, O God!

You are ever the father who gives us bread, not stones.

You are the mother who never forgets we're her own.

From the beginning of life to the closing of time, you are the One who is with us to the end.

And so, with all who breathe on earth and all who sing in heaven, we praise your name and join Creation's song:

(said or sung or read silently)

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,

Who wondrous things has done in whom this world rejoices,

The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,

for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Martin Rinkart, 1663, translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1858

WORD AND RESPONSE

First reading: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Light the candle.

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world. You are our Risen Lord in whom light has conquered darkness.

Feel the power and presence in the light of the Risen Christ.

Second reading: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

Hold the Bible.

Here in our hands is the story of God's covenant of steadfast love with God's people. We are assured of God's presence with us at all times and places - even in the midst of fear and difficulty.

Absorb the stories of God's love and grace that can sustain you wherever you are.

Third reading: On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (John 7:37-38)

Hold the glass of water in your hands.

Without water, there can be no life. In creation, the Spirit of God hovered over the water and brought forth light. God brought John to the Jordan River to call us to repentance. We were nourished in the water of the womb. We were baptized by water and the Spirit into God’s family. Water reminds us of the gifts of creation that God has so abundantly given us, and of the love and grace we have all received.

Know that the water of life, the water of God’s love is flows into your body and soul.

Fourth reading: Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35)

Take a piece of bread in your hands.

Christ broke bread and fed the multitudes. Christ broke bread and formed a new covenant with his closest friends and with all who break bread in remembrance of him. Christ was made known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Bread reminds us that, just like individual grains of wheat are gathered together to make a single loaf, we who are scattered are one body in Christ.

Remember the times you have received bread in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Remember those who gathered with you. Remember the presence of Christ in that moment. Be assured that Christ is with you in every moment of your life. Allow Christ’s love to surround you.

PRAYER

In the silence after every petition (marked by . . .), specific names or situations may be spoken aloud or held closely in the heart.

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, you speak to us words of life.
Call forth in us rivers of living water, and feed our deepest hunger.
In trying times, in times of loneliness or confusion, in times we feel most alone,
remind us that we are never alone, for you are with us always.

Hear us now, and pray for us in our weakness with sighs too deep for words,
as we lift up:

Those whom we love - those present with us and those from whom we are
separated . . .

The prisoners, and those held captive physically, mentally, or spiritually . . .

The sick and the suffering . . .

Those who care for the sick, both medical caregivers and families who wait and watch with them . . .

Those who mourn the loss of loved ones, the loss of freedom, the loss of security, the loss of a livelihood, or the loss of a sense of order and control . . .

Those with more questions than answers, and all who long for your guiding light for their path . . .

The lonely, the isolated, and those who long for a loving touch . . .

Those whose remaining days on this earth are few, and for those walking in the valley of the shadow of death . . .

Those whom we too easily forget, and those whose needs are known only to you . . .

God of compassion, hear our prayers;

fill us with your grace, and inspire us to be instruments of mercy and hope,

for we pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

GOING FORTH (said or sung or read silently)

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
We belong to God, we belong to God.

In these days of anxiety and uncertainty,
may we go forth in Christ's name into all our interactions (digital or otherwise)
as a people of hope.

May we be for the world the body of Christ, broken and shared to be a blessing for all.
May God bless us and keep us.
May God's face shine upon us and be gracious to us.
May God look upon us with kindness and give us peace. Amen.

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