



“Peace or Sorrow” Palm Sunday March 28, 2021

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

If you have an email address and want to be on POP’s weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/worship/>.

If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, or online. Thank you for your generosity.

ORDER OF SERVICE *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

Preparing for Worship

We have made it! Palm Sunday is here and it heralds the start of Holy Week. We hear again how the people gathered and cheered; how the Pharisees wanted the people silenced. Jesus also wept over Jerusalem, acknowledging that all too soon everything would change, everything would be destroyed. The crowds were carried along by the euphoria of each other, the excitement of arriving in the city; carried along, without truly understanding what there were witnessing. As we begin Holy Week today, reflect on what you would do, how you would react, what God is calling you to do. What does it mean to follow Jesus into Jerusalem?

Call to Worship

We praise you, O God,
For your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ.
He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph
And was proclaimed Messiah and king
By those who spread garments and branches along his way.

**Just as we carry these branches,
May we follow Christ in the way of the cross that,
Dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom;
Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
And the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

Music *“Come, Let’s Sing” (Psalm 95) - Joel Payne*

Come, let's sing
to the Rock of ages,
worship him,
joyful and contagious;
bring a song of glory to our God.
Come, let's bow,
kneel before our maker,
praise him now,
there is no-one greater;
bring a song of glory to our God.
He made the earth, the oceans wide,
the desert plains, the mountain heights;
the heavens praise him and his people cry:

*O the Lord our God is great,
our God is King of all the earth.
Raise a shout, let praise ring out,
our God is King of all the earth.*

And now if we hear his voice,
the sound of his glory reaching down,
then with humble hearts we'll turn towards him.
Now if we hear his voice,
the sound of his glory reaching down,
then with humble hearts we'll turn towards him,
bow before him.

Response

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Gathered here, let each one of us in our hearts step aside from the crowd to realize the treasures of this day as we lay our worship before God who deserves our devotion and in that devotion let us sing “Hosanna! Welcome Christ the King!”

Blessing of the Palms

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Music *"The Clip-Clop Beat"* - Bob Hartman, Sam Hargreaves

To the clip-clop beat of the donkey's feet
Everybody sing your praises to the King
As the people shout and the stones cry out
Everybody sing your praises to the King
Everybody sing your praises to the King

"Go into the village," said Jesus to his friends
"And find a colt that's never had a rider
And if the owner asks, just say the colt is for me
And that's the only reason you've untied her"

So they went into the village, and found the donkey colt
And led it back to Jesus like he told them
They took their coats and put them like a saddle on its back
And Jesus headed off towards Jerusalem

Some laid their coats before him, like a carpet on the street
While others cut down palms along the way
And laid them on the road, as well, to make a leafy lane
Then voices raised as one began to say

"Blessed is the one who comes here in God's name
Hosanna in the highest, sing his praise
Who brings the promised kingdom of David to his own
Sing and shout, our God's come to save!"

But some religious leaders were not pleased with what they saw
"Tell them to be quiet!" they complained
"If all my friends were silenced," said Jesus with a smile
"The rocks would sing instead, and praise God's name"

Everybody sing
As the people shout and the stones cry out
Everybody sing your praises to the King

Scripture *Luke 19:29-44*

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

Message

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

Prayers of the People

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

Lord Jesus, may we stop and give you the time you need to make this choice, to turn every word about love you have ever uttered into commitment and example. For there the words run out and all that counts is trust in a way that gives of itself, whose way is broken, whose consequence is death and the choice cannot be done easily, this must milk the soul of everything it believes. So may we stop and give ourselves the time to know this day of palms and processions is the day the kingdom changed and all talk was finished and the word became flesh again, ready to be born but ready also to die. So may we stop and give heaven time to gather what light is left and care for you in this moment of decision: to trust love, fully. So let the palms fly, the high hosannas be sung. Hear them, O Lord Jesus, it is what we know to be true in your moment of decision. May we choose the way of love.

Christ within, before and behind

Christ beneath, above, beside

Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Christ within, before and behind
Christ beneath, above, beside
Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer; grant respite and renewal. Merciful and compassionate Lord, we place before you all people, places and circumstances on our hearts and minds . . . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Christ within, before and behind
Christ beneath, above, beside
Christ ev'ry hour, ev'ry day, ev'ry night

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.

Holy Week Litany

Today we have cheered you on as our champion and hailed you as our hero.
Forgive us tomorrow when our enthusiasm wanes.

Today we have entrusted you to rescue us from our pitiful circumstances.
Forgive us on Tuesday when we decided we can take care of ourselves.

Today we have made you the centerpiece of our very existence.
Forgive us on Wednesday when we forget to remember who you are.

Today we have called out to you loudly by name.
Forgive us on Thursday when we pretend that we've never met you.

Today we have stared at you with star-struck eyes of fans and groupies.
Forgive us on Friday when we avert our eyes because it's too painful to see you on the cross.

Today we have expressed our unsurpassed hopefulness in the future you have in store for us.
Forgive us on Saturday when we believe all is lost.

Today we have been boldly certain of the earthly ways you will redeem us.
Restore us on Sunday when we are startled and awed by your rising. Amen.

Music ***“God of the Movements and Martyrs” - The Many***

Verse 1:

God of the movements and martyrs
God of the powerless child
God of the hurt and the hopeless
And unreconciled
God of the just and the faithful
God of the night and the day
God of the whole of creation
In your name we pray
Many have followed the Savior
Into the face of the storm
Strengthened by long generations
By love they were formed
In basements of tall-steepled churches
In shadows of fences and walls
In alleys and hallways of power
They answered your call

Verse 2:

Now it's our turn to do justice
Humbly we rise to the day
Give us the strength and the wisdom
To walk in your way
Gather the loaves and fishes,
Share until all have been fed
Walk in compassion and mercy
By love we'll be led
Standing in circles surrounding
All holding hands while we pray
When powers bear down on the helpless
We'll stand in the way
God of the worn and the wounded
Let us be healed by the truth
When doorways are blocked we will lower
Our friends through the roof

Verse 3:

God of the circle that holds us
God of the ones pushed away
We will reach out to our neighbors
In your name we'll say:
No matter your creed or your country
No matter the hue of your skin
Your age, who you love, or the body
Your soul was born in
No matter the places you're broken
No matter the things you have done

Lay down that weight on the altar
A new day's begun
You are a child of the maker
You are beloved and known
Join us in work of the kin-dom
We welcome you home
Join us in work of the kin-dom
We welcome you home

Blessing

Go now and walk with Jesus into Jerusalem.
Listen to his words,
Be with him on his journey.
Let his words question you and give you courage.
Let him change you.
And may God bless you,
The Maker, ✕ the Son, and the Holy Spirit
This day, this night and all of your days and nights.
Amen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Limited in-person worship is now being held. Pre-registration is required each week to attend in-person. We will be following social distancing guidelines as well, and masks will be required. Online or on-demand worship will continue to be available. Please register online or call the church office and leave a voicemail message. We will call you back to confirm. Sanctuary doors will be unlocked 10 minutes prior to worship.

Upcoming Holy Week and Easter Worship Opportunities

Maundy Thursday, April 1 – 5:30 p.m. ***in-person only***

Good Friday, April 2 – ***online only***

Easter Sunday, April 4 – 9 a.m. in-person worship (*50 person limit*) (*online also available*)

Gathered and Sent Bible Discussion Available By Phone

The weekly Gathered and Sent Bible discussion recording (podcast) is now available by phone. Just call **978-599-7887** and stay on the line to listen to the recording that discusses the upcoming Sunday scripture reading. A new recording is posted every Monday. Gathered and Sent podcasts can also be found on the church website, Spotify, Pandora, Alexa, Audible, iTunes, Apple Podcast, Google Podcasts, and more. Listen, invite, and participate in God's Word.

Mountain of Love

Each Lenten season, Prince of Peace has a Mountain of Love to support the Weekend Backpack Program, Caritas, and the Vilas Food Pantry as a spiritual practice of generosity and almsgiving. This year, we are asking for ***monetary donations***, or you can donate specific items needed such as spices, plastic spoons, cooking oil, oatmeal packets or cups, apple cider packets, or dry soup packets. These are much needed items, but rarely donated.

CURRENT PHASE: 2

- **Limited in-person worship.** Pre-registration is required to attend in-person. Online or on-demand worship will continue to be available. Please **sign up** on the church website at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/signups/> or by calling the church office. **Please sign up each household individual.** Again, use the sanctuary doors to enter the building. Doors will be unlocked 10 minutes prior to worship.
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building.
- Visitors must wear a facemask and keep to social distancing guidelines.



MISSION STATEMENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

VISION STATEMENT

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.
*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*

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