**A Warm Welcome to Advent Lutheran Church**

**Palm Sunday**

**10:30 A. M. April 5, 2020**

**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.*

**WELCOME**

**PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD**

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

**C Hosanna in the highest.**

**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: St. Matthew 21:1-11**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**GATHERING HYMN**  “All Glory Laud and Honor”   LBW # 108

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**GREETING**

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

**C Hosanna in the highest!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

**C 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.**

*Sit*

**WE HEAR THE WORD**

**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.*

The 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.

9It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

 who will declare me guilty?

*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**: **Psalm 31** *Read Responsively*

*Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

P Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;

 my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

**C** 10**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**

 **my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

P 11I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my

acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

**C 12Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;**

 **I am as useless as a broken pot.**

P 13For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

 they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

**C 14But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.**

 **I have said, "You are my God.**

P 15My times are in your hand;

 rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

**C 16Let your face shine upon your servant;**

 **save me in your steadfast love."**

**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.*

Let 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.

*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

**THE READING OF THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW**

* **NARRATOR: Pastor Aaron**
* **JUDAS: Greg Leonard**
* **SERVANT GIRL/BYSTANDER: Amy Lytle**
* **PILATE: Dale Bicker**
* **HIGH PRIEST/CHIEF PRIEST: Andy Witten**
* **PETER/CENTURION: Joe Bolzenius**
* **JESUS: Phil Canfield**
* **DISCIPLES/ACCUSERS/SOLDIERS:   Adam & Janey Cahill**

*After the reading:*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Ah, Holy Jesus” *Vss. 1, 2 & 5*  LBW # 123

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# APOSTLES' CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

 **creator of heaven and earth.**

 **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

 **He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

 **and born of the virgin Mary.**

 **He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

 **was crucified, died, and was buried.**

 **He descended into hell.**

 **On the third day he rose again.**

 **He ascended into heaven,**

 **and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

 **He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

 **I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

 **the holy catholic Church,**

 **the communion of saints,**

 **the forgiveness of sins,**

 **the resurrection of the body,**

 **and the life everlasting. Amen**

**THE PRAYERS**

*After each portion of the prayers:*

A Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C 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**

**WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE**

**BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

# C Amen

**SENDING HYMN** “Go to Dark Gethsemane” *Vss. 1 - 3* LBW # 109

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**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY –7:00 p.m. - Online at adventelc.org**

**GOOD FRIDAY – 7:00 p.m. - Online at adventelc.org**

**EASTER SUNDAY – 9:30 a.m. – Drive In Service**

 **11:00 a.m. – Online at adventelc.org**