



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.trinitylutheran.ca

April 13, 2025
Palm Sunday

Announcements

Juice boxes are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

Coming Up

Midweek Holden Services Wraps up on April 16. The informal services will take place in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a simple meal of soup and bread at 5 p.m. and the service will begin at 6 p.m.

Also Happening

April 17 – Maundy Thursday, 6 p.m.

April 18 – Good Friday, 10 a.m.

April 20 – Easter Sunday

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Connie, Brenda

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Ken, Mary, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Jeff

Thames Area Clergy: Rev. Stephen Gross, Interim Pastor, Trinity, London

Introduction to the day

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

Hymns

WOV #788 - *Glory to God*

ELW #346 Ride on, ride on in majesty

ELW #344 - All glory, laud and honour

ELW #264 - Prepare the royal highway

ELW #347 Go to Dark Gethsemane

Prayer of the day

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

First reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ 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 awakens—
awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶ I 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.



⁷ The 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;

⁸ he 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?

Psalm: 31:9-16

⁹ Have mercy on me, O Lord, for
I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.

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.**

¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies, a

disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay
to ¹ my acquaintances;

when they see me in the
street ¹ they avoid me.

¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten, ¹ out
of mind;**

I am as useless as a ¹ broken pot.

¹³ For I have heard the whispering of
the crowd; fear is ¹ all around;

they put their heads together
against me; they plot to ¹ take my life.

¹⁴ **But as for me, I have trusted
in ¹ you, O Lord.**

I have said, "You ¹ are my God.

¹⁵ My times are ¹ in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my
enemies, and from those
who ¹ persecute me.

¹⁶ **Let your face shine up- ¹ on your
servant;**

**save me in your ¹ steadfast
love."**

Second reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was
in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of
God,

did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of
death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted
him

and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under
the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.



Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on
ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage
and Bethany, at the place called the
Mount of Olives, he sent two of the
disciples, ³⁰ 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. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you

untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As 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, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Sermon

Live in the joy

Let us sit with Luke's story and consider what it might have been like for a person on the edge of what was going on this morning.

Let's call the man Josephus.

It probably started out as just a regular morning for him.

He had finished his breakfast and was headed out the door to go to his workshop when he came upon two thieves about to steal his colt..

Living near one of the city gates, Josephus was used to a certain level of thievery ... the crowds made it easy for someone to just grab something off a table or windowsill and just keep on going.

But these two ... they saw Josephus watching them and they just kept untying the colt.

"Why are you untying my colt? " Josephus asked the two men as they worked on a knot.

The two men looked at each other and one of them said,

"The Lord has need of it."

There was something about the sincerity of their answer ... he didn't know what ... Suddenly, he heard himself tell the pair to go on with the animal and gestured toward the city gate.

A little while later, Josephus found himself in the crowd ... watching a man sitting on the back of his colt ... riding toward the gate from the hill opposite the city. He was surprised that the colt wasn't bucking or skittish with someone on its back and with all the crowd noise.

People were tossing their cloaks on the ground in front of the pair ... it was quite a sight to see.

Josephus' heart was racing ... filled with joy and a sense of hope.

He grabbed his cloak and threw it on the road with the rest.

Then, Josephus could hear what they were shouting:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Others in the crowd joined in the cheers ... soon Josephus found himself shouting, as well.

Josephus could hear men from the temple plead with the man to quiet the crowd with him ... but the shouts of joy just got louder.

He was close enough to hear the man tell the Pharisees something about shouting stones ... Josephus wasn't sure what it meant.

Josephus wondered why those people would try to mute the people's joy ... and ... most importantly ... it dawns on him that the two men never said anything about bringing the colt back when the Lord was done with it.

This morning, Luke offers us a Palm Sunday story that never mentions palms. It is a story of joyous faithful witness by the disciples.

Earlier, Pilate had entered the city from the west as he arrived to take over leadership of the region.

He rode in at the head of a lengthy procession. There would be a cohort of soldiers, animals, wagons filled with wealth and personal items all in a line stretching from the gate of the city.

All this would be a display ... a reminder to the people ... of who is in charge and who controls matters of life and death over them.

Jesus arrives from the east ... his procession is composed of the disciples. There are no displays of wealth or of force.

The people had been expecting a king who would overthrow the romans, but this morning we hear the disciples proclaim Jesus as the king of peace ... reminding us of the heavenly host's proclamation to the shepherds in the field outside Bethlehem.

Palm Sunday doesn't happen with Jesus alone. The disciples are heavily involved in this morning's events.

They went to get the colt ... accepting Jesus' directions that it would be there and that his words would be enough to get the colt. The disciples place Jesus upon the colt ... raising him up ... and lead the shouts of joy that identify Jesus as the king who will bring peace to the world. The disciples praise him for all the great things they have witnessed during his ministry in the region.

Their actions bring more disciples into the procession ... more people willing to embrace their faith in the Lord's presence in the world ... emboldened for the moment.

The shouts of joy for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem reverberates through the valley between the Mount of Olives and the hill where Jerusalem and the temple are situated. You can imagine the echoing cheers ... growing louder as voices join in.

Still, the Pharisees plead with Jesus to silence the disciples.

Were the Pharisees concerned that the noise would alert the Roman authorities and lead to a military crackdown because the Romans might believe there is a rebellion underway ... were they trying to protect Jesus? Were they trying to reduce his influence with the people? Did they just want him to go somewhere else?

Luke never tells listeners. But the truth that Jesus offers cannot be silenced.

Before the Pharisees exit the scene, Jesus tells them that even if the people stopped shouting ... the stones would take up the call and begin to shout, as well.

In other words, those who had been silent would then give voice to what they had witnessed and experienced. Those rocks ... those followers ... would become foundation of faith. Even all of

creation ... would join in proclaiming the peace and love that Jesus calls the faithful to practice.

As we enter Holy Week, just as Jesus enters Jerusalem, it's important that we stay in this moment and not look ahead to the cross and tomb. We should experience this time as the disciples did in Luke's story this morning.

The coming days are well-known to us. We know what lies at the other end of the week, so let's stay with the joy of Jesus' entry into the city ... stay with the hope and wonder of the moment ... when proclamations cannot be silenced.

It is a time that one pastor says the crowd yells "yay Jesus" before it begins to cry "crucify him!"

We had been called into a period of reflection and repentance during the weeks of the Lenten season. It has been a season of preparation for our hearts and our ministry ... to be open to this moment's joy ... Thursday's call to service ... Friday's grief and sorrow ... and to the grace that flows outward.

These past weeks have offered us an opportunity to find and discard those things that hinder our service to others and our relationship with God ... those things ... perspectives ... attitudes ... expectations ... that keep us from embracing and sharing the grace we have received.

Those things that ... like the Pharisees today ... seek to mute our joy ... our willingness to joyously shout over Jesus' entry into the life of the world ... and into our lives.

AMEN

Those things that keep us from advocating for victims of the world's injustices ... its hard-heartedness ... and speaking truth to power.

To discard those things that have us act like the Pharisees in today's story ... trying to silence the voices of others ... to keep their stories from being heard ... to remain mute in the life of the world.

Once we shed these obstructions, then we can give full voice to our faith and full expression to the gift we have been given through Jesus' death and resurrection.

And that would be unbridled joyous noise indeed.

AMEN

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.

Blessing

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favour and give you + peace.

AMEN



