

MARCH 28th, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT/PALM SUNDAY

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: Today we recall the events of the first Palm Sunday, many years ago.

People: We remember how Jesus entered the holy city of Jerusalem, and a crowd of people paid tribute and welcomed him as their king.

Pastor: Those along the parade route greeted Christ extravagantly by shouting praises, waving palm branches, and laying their cloaks on the ground before him.

People: May we be as extravagant in offering Jesus our words of praise and the things we value greatly.

Pastor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven! Let us worship God.

HYMN #178 *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Almighty God, today is the start of the somber but holy week that marks Jesus' betrayal, arrest and death on the cross, when the people who cried "Hosanna!" as he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey shouted "Crucify him!" in front of Pontius Pilate only a few days later. Help us to discern the deeper meaning of this Gospel story as we remember the darkest time in human history, when violence seemed to triumph over peace and evil over good; but because of what you did on Easter, they did not. Bless us with your presence here this morning, O Lord, and give us eyes of faith that see in Jesus' suffering and life-giving sacrifice the power of your love that culminated with Jesus' resurrection. We ask these things in the name of Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying:

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 and Mark 11:1-11

SERMON MESSAGE: *An Extravagant Offering* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Holy God, your compassion and caring was revealed in Jesus' ministry to the poor, the suffering, and those who were rejected and marginalized by society. As followers of Jesus today, we would carry on his ministry by sharing our gifts with you. Sanctify and use them and our lives to proclaim the Good News of your love for all people; and help us to be more extravagant in the ways we express our faith, as we await the glorious day when Christ comes to rule over every nation and usher in your time of blessed *shalom*. Amen.

HYMN #179 *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: Our time of worship has ended. I pray that Christ has entered your hearts just as he entered Jerusalem long ago.

People: May Jesus dwell in us to guide and strengthen us as citizens of God's realm.

Pastor: Cultivate in yourself an extravagant faith, and let the world know about Jesus and his reign of righteousness and love.

People: We hope that our witness to Christ may lead others to praise him and say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL