The crowds ... shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

Matthew 21:9
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

April 14, 2019
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

The Cross-Shaped Throne

As We Gather

Today’s liturgy is full of contrasts. We recall Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, with its pomp and pageantry. Then we plunge into the Passion, which ends with Jesus’ burial. There is a unifying factor: On Sunday, the crowds hailed Jesus as the King of Israel, and on Friday He reigned from His cruel throne, the cross. There He destroyed death for the sake of His subjects. We offer thanksgiving for His royal, benevolent rule over us and all who bend the knee and call Jesus Lord.
PROCESSION OF PALMS

PRELUDES
“O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee” Paul Manz
“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” Michael Burkhardt

PASTORAL GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.
Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
People: Hosanna to the Son of David.

TOLLING OF THE BELL Congregation, please stand.

COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

Most merciful God, the people of Jerusalem greeted Your dearly beloved Son with palms in their hands and acclaimed Him as King when He came into His Holy City.

People: Bless these palms and those who bear them, and grant that we ever hear His voice above the din of this world and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life;
Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL John 12:12–19 (Jesus enters Jerusalem.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the Twelfth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.
Pastor: The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out,

People: “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”
Pastor: And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,
People: “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”
Pastor: His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued
to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another,

People: “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Pastor: When the crowd was greeting Jesus, the people were quoting a verse from Psalm 118, which Luther said was his favorite. Verse 25 begins, “Save us, we pray, O L ORD!” “Save, Lord” is the meaning of “Hosanna.” As we process into church, let us join our voices to the crowd’s, using that psalm and then singing, “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna.”

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace,

People: in the name of the Lord.

[The procession begins.]

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” LSB 443

※ PREPARATION ※

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We cannot come closer to God as we are. It is only through the gracious forgiveness Christ won for us that we are considered righteous under God’s Law. Let us confess our sins, pleading, “Lord, have mercy” and “Save us, O Lord.”

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and our sinful condition.

Pastor: Father in heaven, David thanked You for answering him and becoming his salvation.

People: Your Son humbled Himself and became a human being to die in our place. But we confess that in our disobedience we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: He was obedient to death and took our sins with Him to the cross. You have exalted Him, that every knee should bow.

People: We confess that without Your help we are bound to continue in sin as Your rebellious children. Hosanna! Save us, O Lord!

Pastor: For Jesus’ sake, our gracious God has given us His Son’s own righteousness. The stone the builders rejected has become our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ※ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.
KYRIE (spoken)

Pastor:  Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People:  Have mercy on us sinners.
Pastor:  Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People:  Have mercy on us sinners.
Pastor:  Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People:  Have mercy on us sinners, and grant us Your peace. Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor:  The Lord be with you.
People:  And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor:  Let us pray.
   Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross.
People:  Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection;
Pastor:  through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People:  Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 34:1-8
(The Second Set of Stone Tablets.)

The L ORD said to Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain.”

So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the L ORD had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. Then the L ORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the L ORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The L ORD, the L ORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave
the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
(“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow.”)

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE Philippians 2:8b

Pastor: Christ humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, 
People: even death on a cross.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11
(The Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Twenty-first chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”
This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:
“Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”
The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus to sit on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Hosanna in the highest!”
When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”
The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” LSB 438 arr. Mark Steffens
Verse 3 – Choir Only

SERMON “A New Beginning” Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Exodus 34:1-8

APOSTLES’ CREED Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the people of God here and around the world and for all people in their various needs.

Lord Jesus, although knowing about Judas’ plans, You arranged for the Passover, which foreshadowed the Lord’s Supper.

Strengthen the faith of Your people here and wherever the Sacrament is celebrated, as we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, which come to us through Your body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, although Peter spoke confidently, You knew that in weakness he would deny You; yet You said he would turn and strengthen his brothers.

Strengthen all whose faith is weak, those who face this day burdened by their past errors, and all who cannot comprehend the depth of Your love, that they realize and rejoice in the forgiveness You so freely offer. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: In the garden, although You prayed in anguish, You asked that the Father's will be done.

[We remember before You especially . . .] Grant courage to them and all who struggle with sudden crisis or long-term illness, all who are near death, and all who languish, unjustly imprisoned or discriminated against, that they rely on Your gracious plans. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Other intercessions may be added here… Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: On the cross, although facing death Yourself, You promised paradise to a criminal and proclaimed the payment for our sins finished.

Grant that Your Holy Spirit open the ears of those who have not heard the Gospel in terms they can understand and believe, that they rejoice with us in the forgiveness of sins and the paradise that awaits all who rely on Your grace and love. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: At the end, although You could not do anything physically, You committed Your spirit to the Father.

Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We share the Lord’s peace with one another, saying, “Peace be with you.”

OFFERING “Hosanna, Hosanna” Joseph Martin Ascension Chorale Eli Faulk, percussionist

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.
PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. 
People: And also with you. 
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:
Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting Four)


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9–13) Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

Amen!
Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting Four)

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“The Majesty and Glory of His Holy Name”  
arr. Crystal Davis Clay  
Diana Gaide, pianist

“In the Cross Alone I Glory”  
Brian Petak; arr. Molly Ijemes  
Ascension Chorale  
Eli Faulk, snare drums

“Christ, the Word of God Incarnate”  
“O Christ, You Walked the Road”  
LSB 540  
LSB 424

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.  
Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”  
LSB 350

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”  
arr. Michael Burkhardt
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor John Larson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Michael Zehnder

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
Diana Gaide

ELDER
8:00 Michael Lawrenz
10:30 Roger Gaide

LECTOR
8:00 Judy Finnessy
10:30 Ted Lemke

ACOLYTE
8:00 Esther Langness
10:30 Espen Erling

USHERS
8:00 Art Gordon, Ann Ranisate, Members of the Congregation
10:30 Jason Dierking, Cody Urbach, Members of the Congregation

SERVER 10:30 Denise Lucero

ALTAR GUILD
Charmaine Rohde, Laurel Shurtleff, Barb Williams

FLOWERS
Susan Anderson, in loving memory of Steve

CCLI License #1903595