



# Ascension Lutheran Church

**Palm Sunday**  
Sunday, April 5, 2020



## Welcome/Introduction

**Call to Worship**            *Toccata on “All Glory, Laud, and Honor,” Michael Burkhardt*

## Confession/Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring,

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;  
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;  
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,.

*Refrain*

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

**Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray...Jesus, Lord of Life, show us how to live. When we are afraid, angry, sad or rejected, teach us to live deeply into different experiences. As we begin the journey of Holy Week, help us to follow in your footsteps. Let the palm branches wave in announcement of your arrival. Keep us close in the upper room and give us strength to not run away from your presence as you die on the cross. Holy God, the journey is yours – you simply invite us to follow. In your holy name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**Song****Hosanna**

I see the King of Glory coming on the clouds with fire  
 The whole earth shakes, the whole earth shakes  
 I see His love and mercy washing over all our sin  
 The people sing, the people sing

I see a generation rising up to take their place  
 With selfless faith, with selfless faith  
 I see a new revival stirring as we pray and seek  
 We're on our knees, we're on our knees (*Chorus*)

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest  
 Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest**

**Gospel Reading****Matthew 21:1-11**

P: The Holy Gospel for this day comes from the book of St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

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

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "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." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The 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 the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Reflection****Freedom is Coming****Pastor Chris****Offering****Let it Rise**

Let the glory of the Lord, rise among us  
 Let the glory of the Lord, rise among us  
 Let the praises of the King, rise among us  
 Let it rise  
 Let the songs of the Lord, rise among us  
 Let the songs of the Lord, rise among us  
 Let the joy of the King, rise among us  
 Let it rise, oh-oh-oh, let it rise

**Prayers/Lord's Prayer**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, you come to meet us in humble ways. You meet us in the lengthening of the light. You meet us in the delicate petals of the first yellow crocus blossom. You meet us in the first bee we see. This year we will look for little signs of life, not passing them by, but stopping and giving thanks for your presence in the beauty of our world. Your holy presence is all around us. Lord, in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Thank you for this congregation gathered to worship through the blessing and challenge of technology. Thank you for the ways you have shaped us into a loving supportive community reaching out to those in need even as we are separated one from another. Thank you for showing us the joy of losing ourselves and finding your strength. We need strength this week to love our families, to be kind at work even when we are tired, and to give to our community, even when we feel we have nothing to give. Lord, in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We come to you in humility because we are not a perfect people. We know what's right and we would like to do it, but we feel that road is too hard, and too costly. Forgive us for cheering you on your lonely road while we take the easy way. We love a humble Savior riding a donkey, but we want the best things, and honor without responsibility. Today we pray for all who are tempted by power: for all political leaders with many followers who will do anything to stay popular; for those with great financial resources, who only want to use it for themselves; for those with power over vulnerable people, who hurt those in their care. Give wisdom and courage to all in power to lead so that others may have dignity and find care. Lord, in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Holy God, hear our prayers for those who are suffering this day. We pray for healing for Sheri’s mom, Kathy, recovering from surgery. We pray for Susan, Jean, Jim preparing for surgery in the days ahead. We ask you to surround Vickie at the loss of her dad. In these days, we pray for all those affected by the coronavirus: those who have died, those who are hospitalized, loved ones who cannot be present – and all those who give care – first responders, nurses, doctors, technicians, respiratory therapists, chaplains, and all who tend the healthcare community. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Thank you Jesus, that you don’t just show us the way, you are the way, and you empower us to follow you. We follow you together, with hosannas in our hearts all the way to the cross. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

P: Remember us O God 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (v. 1, 3, 4)**

**ELW 803**

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

**Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Postlude**

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, arr. Gilbert Martin**