

10:55 ALIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

April 2, 2023

Palm/Passion Sunday

****GOD CALLS US TOGETHER****

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PROCESSIONAL READING

Matthew 21:1-11

Pastor Emily

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 the 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."

GATHERING SONG

"Victory Chant"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are needy and lost apart from your grace. We are aware of our own complicity in the death of Jesus, but simultaneously recognize that his death for our sins was the only way for you to pave the way of forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life. We pray with bowed heads and humbled hearts.

We ask for your forgiveness. Forgive us for our rashness in committing acts that we knew were wrong but did them anyway. Forgive us for our cowardliness and laziness in not doing the good actions that would have glorified your name before the world. Forgive us also for our lack of generosity and civility to the poor and needy among us. We make our confession to you in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

****GOD SPEAKS TO US****

SECOND READING: Matthew 21:12-17

¹²Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a den of robbers." ¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'" ¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

SONG "Jesus Messiah"

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in God the Creator, who made me and all things, who set me on my path in this world.

I believe in God the Savior, who is one with the Creator, who rescued me and all creation from our violations against God and creation. Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, walked a path through this world, taking on human form having been born of a woman through the power of the Holy Spirit. He lived and worked in this world among people just like me. He walked God's path to death on a cross, and rose from the dead to open our pathway to eternal life.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, my counselor and guide, who is one with the Creator and the Christ, who through the body and blood of Jesus brings me into communion with all people, past, present and future; who calls me to walk a sacred way of life through this world, caring for creation and the people I meet on the way, loving them, helping them, welcoming them without prejudice, being God's hands and feet in the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord meet us in the silence...**And hear our prayers.**

Amen.

THIRD READING: Matthew 27:1-2, 11-14, 27-37

¹When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. ²They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

REFLECTION & PRAYER

SONG

“By His Wounds”

****GOD FEEDS US IN A MEAL****

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

We call this sacred meal by many names, one of them being “Holy Communion.” Like prayer and worship, eating a meal is a way we commune with God,

Aware of God’s constant presence and abiding love in our lives.

While Jesus and his followers were sharing the Passover meal, he took some bread and prayed, giving thanks to God.

There was God, always present with them, always providing what they needed.

Jesus broke the bread and gave it to them saying, “This is my body, given for you. Do this and remember me.” Then he lifted a cup and prayed, giving thanks to God. Jesus gave it to them, saying, “This is a new covenant in my blood. Do this and remember me.”

We remember that God is here, in our hands, in our hearts, and in our lives, as we receive this bread and cup.

We remember Jesus' life as a sign of God's Love, alive in the world and in us. As Paul wrote, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus."

This meal is a promise that God is always with us. Living in that promise, we strive to be God's life-giving presence for the world.

Thankful for the gift of this mystery, together we pray:

THE 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. Amen.

Come to the table of our Lord.

COMMUNION SONG "Breathe"

****GOD EMPOWERS AND SENDS US****

FINAL READING: Matthew 27:45-54

Pastor Emily

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

⁴⁶And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

SENDING SONG "Via Dolorosa"

SENDING

Depart In Silence....