

If you could be King for a day, what would you choose to be your ride, your royal ride? My Lisa would choose a Bentley, a dusty blue Bentley. I suppose that could be a fine ride, but I think I'm choosing a Gulfstream, a jet that could take me wherever I wanted to go - nonstop. Jesus chose a donkey.

If you could be King for a day, where would you like to go? I think I'd choose the Alps in Switzerland or Machu Picchu in Peru, someplace special. Jesus chose church in Jerusalem.

If you could be King for a day, how would you like people to see you? What would you put on your Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn pages? What would you text and put on your X-feed? Pictures and videos of power and glory. Jesus chose to look weak, humble - riding on a donkey, escorted by a ragtag crowd.

If you could be King for a day, what would you do with your enemies, your opposition, those who want you dead? Clear out the opposition, fire them, arrest them, threaten them, put the fear of God in them, shut them up and clear them out. Jesus chose to let them live; he even let them scold him.

How? Why? First the "how" - how could he? Jesus knew he wasn't King for just a day. He knew he belonged as King. He didn't see a need to put on a show of might and power. He didn't feel a need to create fear and feed fear. He knew he belonged; he knew that right would win out; he knew God would have his way.

I'm not saying that Jesus will never put on a show of might and power, that he will never give a reason to fear him. Right after our lesson, Luke tells us that Jesus cried; he cried over Jerusalem, over what would happen to Jerusalem, God's judgment on Jerusalem. Jesus' tears show us - Jesus knew there would be a time for fear and judgment. But not yet, not now. Jesus wasn't on a mission to show off his power and glory. He wasn't on a mission to put people in their places. That day, Judgment Day, is still coming. Now, in our lesson, Jesus was on a different mission.

Now Jesus was showing himself as God's King, not God's King to bring judgment and war, but God's King to bring justice and peace. And so instead of riding a war horse, he rides a servant's donkey. Instead of a military escort riding and marching under blood-red army flags, he's escorted by a crowd waving green palm branches. Instead of forcing his way through the people, instead of shouting commands at his people; he sits, he smiles, he waves, and people flock to join him, shouting their praises: **"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord."** **"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

As Jesus rides to Jerusalem, as Jesus shows himself as King, he doesn't ride to take power; he doesn't show himself to take power. He's going to Jerusalem to give up, to give up his life. This week, on Thursday, it will look like Judas gets his way and his silver. On Friday, Good Friday, it will look like the priests and people who wanted Jesus out of their way, will get their way with Jesus dead. Before the powers of this world, as they crush and crucify Jesus, it will look like Jesus is weak and powerless, that evil is in control. But we know better. We get to see Jesus going up to Jerusalem to give up his life. To give his life to God in obedience. To give his life as the Lamb of God carrying the sin of the world. To give his life to pay for your sin and mine.

What sin? I wonder. If I were there in the neighborhood when Jesus rode by, and I were told: "It's Jesus time!" what would I have done? Would I have stopped what I was doing? Would I have gathered to see Jesus, hear Jesus? Would I have stopped what I was doing to be part of what Jesus was doing? Or would I have thought my thing, what I had going, to be more important than Jesus' thing, what Jesus had going? I wonder. If I were in the crowd with Jesus, when people were giving their coats and their cloaks for Jesus to ride on, would I have given mine? Or just watched as someone else gave theirs? Or maybe helped someone else give theirs while I held on to mine? How willing would I have been to give what I like to think of as "mine"? I wonder. If I were there with Jesus, with my hopes up, thinking Jesus was coming to make life right for me ... if Jesus didn't do what I expected, what I hoped, if Jesus didn't do things and fix things my way, what would I have thought of Jesus? I wonder.

It can be so easy to get wrapped up in the “wow” of the Palm Sunday experience - “look what the crowd was doing!” - or to be underwhelmed by the Palm Sunday story - “he rode a donkey, what’s the big deal?” - it can be so easy to miss the main point. Jesus was giving himself up - his glory, his power, his comfort and convenience. Jesus was giving himself up to pay for my sinful hold on my self and my pride and my power and my stuff and my comfort and my convenience. To pay for my hold on my self, Jesus gave up himself.

Knowing he was headed to the cross didn’t stop him. Knowing the pain of the cross didn’t stop him. Knowing he would be blamed and made to pay for all that we have done wrong didn’t stop him. Knowing how ungrateful we can be didn’t stop him. This week we will see Jesus give himself up for you and for me - until he could say, “It is finished.” This week we will see Jesus give himself up all the way, until he could say: “Peace - your sins are forgiven you. Peace - I have you safe with me. Peace - I have a place for you in heaven.” On Palm Sunday and all this week, we get to see - nothing could stop Jesus from doing what needed to be done so we - so you - can have life with God.

You know what happened, don’t you? You know what Jesus’ love did. The people who saw Jesus as their Savior-King had to join him. They had to worship and shout their praises. They had to worship and give for Jesus. They had to be part of what Jesus was doing. They had to. Why? Not because they had a stick shaking over their heads. No, they had to be part of what Jesus was doing because they had a taste of God’s love in their hearts.

That’s why we’re here. That’s why we worship. That’s why we give for Jesus. That’s why we have our Workship Day. That’s why we have our school; it’s why we have Family Bible Hour. It’s why we want to be part of Christ’s church, part of what Jesus is doing. Why? Because he’s shown us his love, his unstoppable love - for you!

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

Pre-Service Music

No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet – Richard Proulx
My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness – David Cherwien
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna – All Glory, Laud, and Honor – Sam Ellson
The Psalms – Jean-Baptiste Faure
Valet will ich dir geben – Otto Schenk
All Glory, Laud, and Honor – Kevin Hildebrand

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION



(Our children will join in a palm processional through the church to the altar during our first hymn. The children gather before the service in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45.)

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we see how people with power and glory like to get things done.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see how Jesus uses his power and glory to accomplish his purpose - he surrenders his power and glory and wins for himself and for us a place in glory with God.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. Today we come together to begin the solemn celebration of Holy Week. Christ entered in triumph into his own city, to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion his entry that culminated at the empty tomb and follow him with a lively faith. United with him by Baptism, we share in his resurrection and new life.

M: Let us go forth in peace,

C: **In the name of the Lord.**

PALM PROCESSIONAL - SUNDAY

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Hymn 412

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

The company of angels is praising you on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain*

To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*

As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing, our good and gracious King. *Refrain*

M: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

HOLY BAPTISM (SATURDAY)

CW p. 151

+ Emmie Jane Knauf +

CONFESSION

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross.

In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

**Baptism means that the sinful nature in us
should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance,
and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death.
It also means that a new person should daily arise
to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Gospel according to St. Mark:

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Emmie Jane Knauf, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart T to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received *Emmie* as your own *child* and made *her* a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to *her* and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCHOOL SONGS - SUNDAY

"King of Kings Medley"

*We will glorify the King of Kings; We will glorify the Lamb;
We will glorify the Lord of Lords, Who is the great I Am.*

*Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty, We will bow before His throne;
We will worship Him in righteousness; We will worship Him alone.*

*He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth; He is Lord of all who live;
He is Lord above the universe – All praise to Him we give.*

*O hallelujah to the King of Kings, Hallelujah to the Lamb;
Hallelujah to the Lord of Lords, Who is the great I Am.*

*We will glorify the King of Kings, We will glorify the Lamb;
We will glorify the Lord of Lords, Who is the great I Am.*

*King of Kings and Lord of Lords, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah! Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah!*

SCHOOL AND CHOIR SONG - SUNDAY

"Hosanna!"

*Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang:
to Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.*

Refrain

*Hosanna, hosanna! Let all God's children sing.
Hosanna, loud hosanna, hosanna to the King!*

*From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.*

Refrain

*"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!*

Refrain 2x

Loud hosanna, hosanna to the King! Hosanna!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

God our Father, we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed as a king by those who shouted "Hosanna" and spread their clothing and palm branches in his path. Accept our praise, and listen to our prayers as we rejoice in our triumphant King, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 42:1-4

*"Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.
He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.*

A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

M: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 2:1-11

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own
advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming 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 acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

M: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.' "

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They replied, "The Lord needs it."

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

M: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

CONFESSION OF FAITH The Second Article Explanation of the Apostles Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet"

Hymn 414

No tramp of soldiers' marching feet with banners and with drums,
no sound of music's martial beat: "The King of glory comes!"
To greet what pomp of kingly pride no bells in triumph ring,
no city gates swing open wide: "Behold, behold your King!"

And yet he comes. The children cheer; with palms his path is strown.
With ev'ry step the cross draws near: the King of glory's throne.
Astride a colt he passes by as loud hosannas ring,
or else the very stones would cry "Behold, behold your King!"

What fading flow'rs his road adorn; the palms, how soon laid down!
No bloom or leaf but only thorn the King of glory's crown.
The soldiers mock, the rabble cries, the streets with tumult ring,
as Pilate to the mob replies, "Behold, behold your King!"

Now he who bore for mortals' sake the cross and all its pains
and chose a servant's form to take, the King of glory reigns.
Hosanna to the Savior's name till heaven's rafters ring,
and all the ransomed host proclaim "Behold, behold your King!"

SERMON

HYMN

"The King of Glory Comes"

Hymn 548

Refrain

The King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him; lift up your voices.

Who is the King of glory? How shall we call him?
He is Immanuel, the promised of ages. *Refrain*

In all of Galilee, in city or village,
he goes among his people, curing their illness. *Refrain*

He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation;
he took upon himself the sin of the nations. *Refrain*

He conquered sin and death; he truly has risen,
and he will share with us his heavenly vision. *Refrain*

OFFERING

If you prefer online giving, you may scan this code with your mobile device.



(You heard our school children sing today. Tuition Grant Fund envelopes are available in the pew rack to support affordable tuition for our school.)

PRAYER

M: Lord Jesus, you entered Jerusalem to take up your final steps to the cross. You came as a conquering, yet humble, King. Your victory was won through your death on the cross and your triumphant resurrection. You came not to be served, but to serve, and to give your life as a ransom for many. Jesus, our humble and serving King,

C: Help us to follow in your footsteps.

M: Lord Jesus, help us by your Spirit to serve others as you served and sacrificed your life for us. Work through our hands and eyes and hearts to bring comfort and hope to those in need. Jesus, our humble and serving King,

C: Help us to follow in your footsteps.

M: Lord Jesus, we live now in your kingdom, yet we long for the day when we will see you return in glory as King and Judge. Until that day, help us to be faithful servants and citizens of your kingdom. Jesus, our humble and serving King,

C: Help us to follow in your footsteps. 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. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: (spoken) Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

Hymn 411

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue your road, with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, your triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! The angel armies of the sky
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes to see th' approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on his sapphire throne awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign.

Postlude

"Hosanna to the King" by Sam Ellson
"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" by Jan Bender

SPECIAL THANKS

We thank our children and choir for blessing our worship.

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Holy Thursday	April 17	7:00pm
Good Friday	April 18	7:00pm
Easter Service	April 20	9:00am

Followed by Easter Fellowship

(No worship service on Saturday, April 19)

- Holy Thursday Jesus, the Son of God himself, invites you to the Upper Room to show you “the full extent of his love.” Join him at his table as he gives you his body and blood, “given and shed for you, for the forgiveness of your sins.” Witness the Rite of the Stripping of the Altar and strengthen your resolve to never abandon the Lord. (Plan to leave the service quietly, reflecting on the love of our Lord.)
- Good Friday Alone in the dark, forsaken by God, Jesus pays for your sin and the sin of the world. Join us for a Good Friday Tenebrae Service, a service of shadows and darkness, reminding us of the darkness of our sin and guilt, the darkness of the world’s hate and anger against God, and, yes, the darkness of God’s curse on our sin, all charged against Jesus.
- In a Tenebrae service, candles are extinguished and lights are dimmed to impress on us the utter darkness and loneliness, the horrible curse that Jesus faced on the cross. As you hear of Jesus’ burial and the service closes, expect to hear the *strepitus* and see a sign of hope. (Again, plan to leave the service quietly, reflecting on the love of our Lord.)
- Easter Sunday We can’t wait for the sun to come up! We have a living Jesus to meet! Join us for Easter service at 9 and food and fellowship immediately following the service. You don’t have to be quiet leaving this service – rejoice and tell your world the best news of the year - Jesus lives!

COMPANY IS COMING

Join us as we will prepare Our Lord's House for Easter! There will be four project teams (with a project lead) to coordinate volunteers to help make the projects go smoothly and quickly. Two teams will be working outside. Two teams will be working inside. Please join us for fun, fellowship and food (PIZZA WILL BE PRESENT) as we work together to prepare God's House for this special week on the church calendar.

Palm Sunday Workshop Project List

Inside Projects – Contact Steve Lemerand

Lunch

Lunch Coordinator - Plan for pizza lunch at noonish. Set-up for lunch.

Inside Cleaning

- Fellowship Hall - Clean ALL Tables and Chairs w/Magic Eraser

Inside Fix

- Replace light bulbs in Fellowship Hall, lower level hallway and upstairs girl’s bathroom
- Window Number Decals for Office (Sarah can get you the numbers) -

Painting

- storage room and art room brick painting (around windows)
- sand and prime north wall water damage (church entrance)

Muscles needed

- move old non-functional laminator to dumpster

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Outside Easter Tomb - Contact Dan Freeck

- haul tomb pieces from gravel-lot garage
- spin cross poles from behind dumpsters to Tomb-Site
- assemble the tomb

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Outside Yard Projects - Contact Todd Haefke

- Clean up flower beds for Easter
- Cut flowers down by clinic sign
- Clear ground cover on east side of doctor’s office
- Police the south side easement
- Playgrounds - rake mulch to proper depth around playground equipment