

## **Sunday Worship on April 13, 2024**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

### **Sunday Order of Worship**

#### **We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 218 Hosanna, loud hosanna
- Prayer for Worship and Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 78 This is the day

#### **We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Zechariah 9:9-10
- Second reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Luke 19:28-40
- Sermon: **What kind of King is Jesus to you?**
- Hymn BOP 215 Filled with excitement
- Prayer for the people

#### **We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 687 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

#### **We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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### **Responsive Call to Worship**

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

**Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

**Hosanna! Blessed is our King who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

**Blessed is Jesus, our Saviour and our friend! Glory to the Creator and the Spirit, ever three and ever one!**

### **Praise song – BOP 218 Hosanna, loud hosanna**

#### **Prayer of Adoration**

Holy God, Source, Saviour and Spirit of all life, Holy Three and Holy One, in you, we confront the mystery of mercy and the courage of compassion. As we face the cross on which Christ gave himself, we confront your willingness to die for us so that we might find new life. As the Spirit speaks to us through the story of your amazing love, spilled out in the blood of Jesus Christ, our hearts are moved to praise you. Words cannot express our awe, the grief and the gratitude stirring within us, for all you have given us, and for all you will give us through such unspeakable love. We praise and worship you in wonder and gratitude.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)** *(Let us come to God with the prayer of confession in unison.)*

**We confess it is easier for us to follow the crowd than follow Christ; we prefer to avoid conflict rather than stand up for your mercy and understanding. We allow strident voices in our times to drown out your wisdom and truth. Forgive us, O God. Fill us with the courage to take up our cross and follow Jesus, even when the cost to follow is high and reputations are at stake, for we pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.**

**Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us:** (The Lord's Prayer:)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

The Apostle Paul wrote: "This saying is sure and worthy of our full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." It doesn't matter how big or how small our sins; God's forgiving love in Jesus Christ can cover them all. Trust that, in Christ, we are forgiven. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with each other.

**May the Peace of the Lord be with you.** *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

**Praise song – BOP 78 This is the day**

**Prayer for Children**

**Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: Zechariah 9:9-10
- Second reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Luke 19:28-40

**"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

**SERMON: What kind of king is Jesus to you?**

Today is **Palm Sunday. (PIC)** As Jesus came into Jerusalem, people welcomed him. People lifted his name on high. People were expectant. They waved Palm branches as a sign of triumph, joy, and peace. By Jesus' time, waving palms had become a national symbol of hope for a Messiah who would free them from Roman rule and restore Israel's glory. So, people welcomed Jesus as the promised King and Deliverer. But their expectations didn't match God's plan. They wanted a national hero to overthrow Rome. **But, Jesus came to conquer sin and death.**

This royal entry reveals two clashing visions of kingship. One is the **crowd's dream**: a warrior king, a liberator from earthly powers. The other is **Jesus' reality**: the King of victory over sin and death. So today, as we wave our palms, we're faced with a question: **What kind of king is Jesus to you?**

Think about how victories were celebrated back then. When an army returned from battle, victorious, the people would line the streets, waving palms to welcome them home.

Now picture Jesus' entry. What's different? Jesus rides on a donkey.  
Not on a mighty warhorse, but on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

In cartoons or fairy tales, princes ride grand, powerful horses—white, majestic, towering. Not Jesus. He chooses a humble baby donkey.

Why? Because he fulfills the prophecy from Zechariah 9:9. **“Rejoice great, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”**

This image of Jesus' entry paints a powerful contrast between **two kinds of kingship**. One, **Earthly Kingship**. This is what the crowd expected. The other kingship is **Heavenly Kingship**. This is what Jesus intended and revealed.

**The crowd expected earthly power and control.**  
**Jesus brought spiritual authority and love.**

**The crowd wanted military might and dominance.**  
**Jesus offered eternal salvation.**

**The crowd hoped for a political uprising against Rome.**  
**Jesus gave a self-sacrificing love.**

**The crowd dreamed of a temporary kingdom.**  
**Jesus established an eternal kingdom.**

The crowd didn't just wave palms that day. They spread their cloaks on the path before him—a sign of honor and submission. Imagine that: laying down what you have so the King can tread upon it.

When we gather here each Sunday, are we doing the same?  
Are we submitting ourselves to our true King?  
How do we even begin to do that?

Let's make it personal. What do you chase—earthly power or spiritual authority? Control or surrender? I'll confess something. For a few months, every other Monday, I delivered bread to an underprivileged family. It was a 30-minute drive there, 30 minutes back. And honestly? I didn't always love it. I'd grumble to myself, “This takes up too much of *my* time.” But then I'd think, “This is what God wants. There's a heavenly reward.” Still, I wrestled with it because I wanted control.

How generous are we with our time when it comes to God? When we read the Bible, pray, or simply sit in his presence, do we give him our best, or just the leftovers?

Today is **Palm Sunday**, and at the same time, today is **Passion Sunday** because Jesus' passion and suffering began today as he entered Jerusalem. And this week is Holy Week. This is the final week of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday. It walks us through the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry. From today's triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his death and resurrection. As we go through this Holy Week, can we surrender control of our time to King Jesus?

And what about our pride? We love being right. “My way is best. My plans are perfect. My experiences matter most.” But are they from God? Are your thoughts, your words, and your

actions pleasing to him? We're created in God's image. He breathed his life into us. Do we reflect that image in how we live? Who truly rules our lives? Is it our hearts or King Jesus?

Can any of us say we follow Jesus every single moment? I can't. I know my weaknesses, my selfish desires. The Apostle Paul knew this struggle too.

**Romans 7:21-8:2, "So I find to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."**

That's a long passage, but it captures the battle we all face—between the power of self and the power of Christ.

Jesus chose a miserable death to free us from that battle. We have life because of him. We call ourselves his followers. So how do we follow?

This Holy Week, let's not just wave palms. Let's surrender our lives. Let's follow not the king we expect—a king of control, pride, or temporary wins—but the King we need: the One who gave everything for us. Jesus rode into Jerusalem humbly, but triumphantly, to die, so we could live. Will you follow him?

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

### **Praise song – BOP 215 Filled with excitement**

#### **Prayer for the people:**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Palm Sunday, for the reminder of Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem as our true King. As we wave our palms and shout "Hosanna," may our hearts truly surrender to your lordship, trusting in your love and grace and faithfulness.

Lord Jesus, we lift up to you those who are worshiping you together. Bless each person as we journey through Holy Week. Give us the courage to lay down our cloaks at your feet. Our pride, our control, and our time. Help us follow Jesus with open hearts, reflecting his humility and love in all we do, say, and think. Guide us. Strengthen us. And draw us closer to you. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

#### **Invitation to the offering:**

Let us honour Christ and bring our offerings of praise to him. Let us present to God our gifts and offerings for the transformation of this world.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him. (*BOP #830, Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*)

#### **Offering prayer:**

God of glory, God of love, and God of justice, thank you for calling us yours. In glad thanksgiving for all the blessings we know in this life, we give you our praise. We thank you for

the gifts of music, art, poetry and science and for all the ways you reveal your wisdom to us. Accept our offerings and use them and us for the building of your kingdom in this world. In Jesus's name, we pray, Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 687 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine**

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world where God called us to be. We are standing before God alone. It's a one-on-one relationship with God after all. Who is Jesus to you? In this Holy Week, accept Jesus Christ as your true King and Lord. Beginning from entering Jerusalem riding a donkey, Jesus walked through suffering and died on the cross just for you. May his presence be in your heart.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.