



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Palm Sunday
April 5, 2020

Palm/Passion Sunday

april 5 @ fpc

image: phpc.org

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CALL TO WORSHIP:

Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!
Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!
Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!
Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Holy God, you reveal the truth about your people
and the ways of our world
in the suffering of the Son and his steadfast love.
Show us again the image of humility you desire for us,
and teach us obedience,
so that self-emptying may be our pathway,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN:**

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

#265

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

- 1. You are the King of Israel, and David's royal Son, Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and blessed One!***
- 2. The company of angels are praising you on high, creation and all mortals in chorus make reply:***
- 3. The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went; our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present:***
- 4. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise; to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise:***
- 5. As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring, for you delight in goodness, O good and gracious King!***

***CALL TO CONFESSION:**

Let us face this day of palms and Jesus' passion with honesty,
confessing our sin before God.

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Holy God,
sure of your faithfulness even in your dying,
comforted by your compassion toward your people in every age,
we beg your mercy for our imperfect gratitude.
We have looked to you for paltry favors,
when you have given everything.
We have withheld from your people, our neighbors,
and from your creation, our Earth,
the care and tending they deserve.
We have rejected the cornerstone you sent
to build a people of righteousness even here, today.
Forgive our failings.
Heal what we have broken,
nurture what we have neglected,
and lead us to your vision,
so that we may know the peace of wholeness in you;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#377

O Lord, have mercy, O Lord have mercy,
O Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ have mercy, O Christ have mercy,
O Christ have mercy, have mercy on us.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

Your God has come to you,
humble, in the form of a slave,
to free you from the weight of sin and death.
Jesus' obedient suffering has released you.
Your sins are forgiven,
in the name of the one who is exalted
beyond what we can comprehend:
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of
God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Take a moment to share Christ's peace by greeting those around you.)

***SUNG RESPONSE**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Our Savior comes to us humbly,
riding a donkey and proclaiming a message of peace.

Let us pray for the church,
for Earth and all its creatures,
and for all people in need, saying,
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That Christians hear and share the word of God as true disciples,
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That all ends of the earth receive the words of the king of peace.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That all leaders, of church and of state, prefer humble service to empty power.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That all people live with gratitude
for the gifts of nourishment, friendship, family,
trust, patience, and hope
with the courage and wisdom to change whatever fails to be life-giving.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That those who see the cross starkly revealed in their lives
draw strength from the name that is above every other name.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That we might live with gratitude for our ancestors
whose faith and witness have nourished our own,
that all who mourn today will be comforted,
and that we, who hope to greet Jesus when he comes again,
will be ready and filled with joy.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those near to us who need your strength and healing...(prayer cards)
We pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

God our creator, you show your sons and daughters
the way to freedom through the gentle obedience of your Son,
Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day
through the power of the Holy Spirit,
that we may enter into the coming Holy Week
with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Matthew 27:11-54

¹¹ Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied. ¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor. ¹⁵ Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. ¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.” ²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ²¹ “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they answered. ²² “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!” ²³ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!” ²⁵ All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!” ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. ²⁷ Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ³² As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ³⁴ There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶ And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. ³⁷ Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁸ Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” ⁴⁴ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. ⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lemasabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). ⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine

vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink.⁴⁹ The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

SERMON:

"A Death As Large As Life"

Rev. Dr Jared Witt

***THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things
were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered
death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into
heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who
with the Father and Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in
one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look
for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY:

#34

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

1. *O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, now scornfully surrounded with thorns thine only crown: O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine: yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.*

2. *What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners gain; mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place; look on me with thy favor, and grant to me thy grace.*

3. *What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end? O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never out live my love to thee.*

***BLESSING:**

HOUSEHOLD PRAYERS

MORNING

I rise, O God, awakened by your Word,
to live another day.
Lead me in your path.
Show me the steps to take toward greater faith.
Hold me in your care as I move through this Holy Week
where the shadows deepen even in the daylight.
Hosanna! Save me now, dear God! Amen.

EVENING

I come to the darkness of night, O God,
tired and ready for a sweet respite in your care.
Keep me safe from all harm,
and bring me to the morning light with renewed strength.
In Jesus' holy name, I pray. Amen.