

Call to Worship

One: Look! Your king is coming—humble and riding on a donkey.

All: Hosanna to the Son of David!

One: Lay your cloaks before him; spread palms to honor him.

All: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: Raise your voices. Lift your hearts. Rejoice—our Savior comes!

All: Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Hymn: #196 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Refrain:

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One. *Refrain*

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

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

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King! *Refrain*

Prayer of Confession

One: Suffering God, the way of the cross is a hard road.

All: It is draining. It is demanding. It is fraught with danger.

One: You ask us to stay by your side as you walk toward Calvary. But weariness and fear overtake us. Like the first disciples, we are quick

All: to betray you, to deny you, to abandon you.

One: Forgive us, God, and strengthen us for the journey ahead. Give us courage to face the pain and suffering of this world and to respond with compassion. As the darkness gathers,

All: renew our faith, fill us with hope, and startle us with your grace.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe and live the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

1. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
2. Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."
19. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
20. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
21. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
22. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
23. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
24. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
25. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

26. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.
27. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.
28. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.
29. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

1. When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,
2. 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.
3. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."
4. This 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."
6. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
7. they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.
8. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.
9. 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!"
10. When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"
11. The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Homily "Triumph and Foreboding"

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

Affirmation of Faith *From A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.
 Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
 we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
 whom alone we worship and serve.
 With believers in every time and place,
 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn: #198 *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

Ride on! ride on in majesty! Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
 thy humble beast pursues its road with palms and scattered garments strowed.
 Ride on! ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;
 O Christ, thy triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.
 Ride on! ride on in majesty! The hosts of angels in the sky
 look down with sad and wondering eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.
 Ride on! ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;
 bow thy meek head to mortal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Benediction