

**Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches
Sunday, April 2nd
Palm Sunday
Rock Creek 8:30AM Faith 10:30AM
Pastor Bethany Walker**



**Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by
Pastor Bethany, Maria and Aaron Walker
in celebration of Nate and Lillian's birthdays**

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hosanna. **Hosanna in the highest**

Hosanna and honor. **Hosanna and praise.** Hosanna and glory.

Honor, praise, and glory are yours. Almighty God, now and forever.

Hosanna in the highest!

In celebration, we join the crowds of old,
waving branches, giving honor to the Messiah.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessing of the Palms

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray...

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today Jesus enters the holy city in triumph and is proclaimed Messiah and King

by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these

**branches and those who wave them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the
way of the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Palm Procession & Opening We Are Marching in the Light of God WOV 650

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching, we are marching in the
light of God. We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching, we are
marching in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing, we are singing in the light of God.
We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing, we are singing in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing, dancing, we are dancing, dancing, we are dancing in the light of
God. We are dancing, dancing we are dancing, dancing we are dancing in the light
of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching, we are marching in the
light of God. We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching, we are
marching in the light of God.

Children's Message

Confession and Forgiveness

Our hosannas are humbled. **Our celebration is bittersweet**
for our story doesn't end here. **We know the pain of what lies ahead.**
Today anticipates the rest of the story—a story of betrayal and death,
a story of hope and resurrection.

Let us humbly confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection

Lord Jesus, **we are a fickle people, quick to turn away. We are quick to flock to
you when all is well, but we are prone to scatter when there is opposition or
criticism. Too often we have kept silent before you, afraid to proclaim your
praise. It is easy to join the crowd as you ride triumphantly into Jerusalem**

singing our joys and expectations, dancing our hopes and dreams. It is far more difficult to stand by you as the crowd cries for your crucifixion. Forgive our weakness when we turn away. Strengthen us for the journey ahead as we relive your suffering and death, that we might stay beside you to the end. Give us the courage to shout our hosannas, not only today, but always. Amen.

The Lord is our strength and might. Jesus is our salvation. In Jesus our sins are forgiven. In Jesus our cries are answered, our salvation is at hand. Blessed be the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest!**

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the whole human race, you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 31

The Psalms Project

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation

For God has come to dwell with us
to make us people of God; to make all things new.

Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11
From The Message

When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you." This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet: Tell Zion's daughter, "Look, your king's on his way, poised and ready, mounted On a donkey, on a colt, foal of a pack animal." The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!" "Blessed is he who comes in God's name!" "Hosanna in highest heaven!" As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?" The parade crowd answered, "This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Canticle of the Turning

(refrain) My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be, your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show our might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (refrain)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast; God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (refrain)

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

Peace

Offering

Offertory Response

Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy. To the God of light and love and freedom, praise and glory forevermore.

Offering Prayer

God of good gifts, **receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms for all. On the night in which he was betrayed...

Lord's Prayer

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Embodied God, **at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

Blessing

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW 335

Jesus keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever, till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me; there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever, till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever, till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever, till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Invitation to Holy Week

Passing from joy into sorrow and on to elation, we come to Christ this Holy Week. Today is only a part of the story. Jesus' triumph leads to his death, his death to his resurrection. May the journey of this week lead you into the fullness of lament and love as we move onward toward the cross. Now go in peace. Holy week has begun.

Thanks be to God!