

RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church  
Langham, SK

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Radisson, SK

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY  
April 5, 2020

St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham  
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
Ministers: Members of the Congregation  
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PROCESSIONAL GATHERING  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.  
Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day:  
Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD  
First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11  
Holy Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

Reflection – Pastor Melissa  
Now would be the time for Jesus to come trotting in on a warhorse, to deliver a loud and lengthy rallying cry, to stir up supporters and heap attention onto himself.

But of course, that’s not how Jesus does things. There is no show of might from the Son of God. He comes riding on a donkey-or in Matthew’s Gospel, somehow both on a colt and a donkey-the kind of steed you would ride in peacetime, an allusion to the golden age of King David in Israel’s history. Jesus isn’t hyping up for a battle. The battle is already as good as won. God’s kingdom has already come in him.  
Even as Christ is dying, there are unmistakable signs of the kingdom breaking into this world. The powers of death work backwards-because the one who has authority over life and death has quietly decided it is time.  
All of the powers that oppose God, that demand our fear and focus and servitude, are exposed as empty noise in the all-encompassing love of Christ for us and for the world. Christ has arrived, and now God’s kingdom unfolds in God’s people. Death works backwards in us, as we forgive those who wrong us, share our gifts with those in need, and help others know God’s love.  
Christ comes to you. No matter the circumstances, no matter how loud the forces of darkness might shout, he has entered this world and established his kingdom. He has freed you to love and hope and trust God in the face of anything this world can throw at us, even death. May we notice his kingdom unfolding around us, and may we raise our voices for joy, shouting, “Hosanna”! Amen.  
Prayers of Intercession:  
Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.  
A Brief Silence  
God of mercy, awaken your church to new proclamations of your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of your redemption. Hear us, O God,  
Your mercy is great.  
God of mercy, quiet the earth where it trembles and shakes. Protect vulnerable ecosystems, threatened habitats, and endangered species. Prosper the work of scientists, engineers, and researchers who find ways to restore creation to health and wholeness. Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, drive away fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who seek liberation for the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those who are in prison. Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.  
God of mercy, send your saving help to all who suffer abuse, insult, discrimination, or contempt. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying. Bring peace to those suffering chronic or terminal illness. Tend to all who cry out for relief (especially...). Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.  
God of mercy, we pray for all who will prepare and lead worship in this Holy Week. In all things, show us the ways that you call us to die to self, to live for you, and to give of ourselves for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.  
God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth, let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope. Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.  
According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
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Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday: We encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ’s broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God’s astounding work.  
Pastor Melissa has uploaded a worship service video. Look for this week’s link on Facebook.

**Let us remember in our prayers:** Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Susan Wonko, Don Wenner, David Friesen, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Ida Muller, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp

Also for everyone affected by COVID 19 - those who have been infected, those who are quarantined, those who continue to care for the sick, those making major decisions.

**St. Paul** - if you wish to give an offering during this COVID 19 situation, you could send a cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or to drop it off at the church, call Doris at 827-4953 to make arrangements.

**For more worship services/devotions** you could check out the following:

- Pastor Randy Fiege is live on Facebook every day at 11:00a with a short devotional, as well as a service Sunday morning at 11:00a.

- If you follow ELCIC on either Twitter or Facebook, the national bishop posts a daily hymn suggestion and a prayer. On Twitter, she sometimes posts a video of her singing the hymn.

- Also, the Lutherans Connect Blog. <https://reimaginingjustice.blogspot.com/2020/03/>

- The ELCIC website has a list of worship livestreams from congregations across the country: Bishop Sid will have Holy Week meditations at 7:00p beginning this Wednesday: [http://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm?fbclid=IwAR1s5epuR-bBR89vhI8LNZR8GZq5Y6QFVvk62YR\\_nV\\_Tm6YMaY3T5eva-nBw](http://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm?fbclid=IwAR1s5epuR-bBR89vhI8LNZR8GZq5Y6QFVvk62YR_nV_Tm6YMaY3T5eva-nBw)

**Pastor Michael Diegel**, interim chaplain for LuMinHoS says that he is still able to visit in Royal University and St. Paul's hospitals in Saskatoon, but there are restrictions on the use of PPE and if someone is on precautions, he is only able to visit from the doorway. Visiting has always been a ministry of presence and this is especially so now as patients no longer receive any visits from family and friends. Those visits are critical to emotional and spiritual well-being of patients and aid in recovery. If you know of someone in the hospital please let him know ([chaplain@luminhos.org](mailto:chaplain@luminhos.org)) because as we

know, not every person is asked their religious affiliation. Also he asks that you remember in your prayers all the health care workers who are not only providing health care, but are visiting with patients as they have time.

**For the time being** St. Paul Church will be open for silent prayer and reflection, Sunday mornings, 9:30-11:00a.

**Happy Birthday this week:** Cheyanne Roth, Clarence Mitchler, Martha Lessing, Connie Neudorf, Thomas Walker, George Farthing

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### PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:1-11

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup> “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.”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>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!”

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>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 awakens—  
awakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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;

<sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

### SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 27:11-54

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>30</sup> They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of

the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

<sup>38</sup> Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” <sup>44</sup> The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”