

Falls Village Congregational Church

April 5, 2020 - Palm/Passion Sunday

Order of Worship

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Words of Introduction

Prelude

Call to Worship (from Zechariah 9 and Psalm 118)

Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion!

Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!

Look, your king is coming to you.

He is righteous and victorious,

yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—

even on a donkey's colt.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

You are our God, and we will praise You!

You are our God, and we will exalt You!

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

His faithful love endures forever!

Hymn 192

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 melodies we raise. Refrain

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you gave your Son to lead us in way the way beauty, love, and truth. As he entered Jerusalem, may we enter our world to follow him, obeying you and trusting your power, willing to sacrifice and serve; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

O God of the living, we confess that we are often like dead people, going through the motions of life. We rebel against your will, we desire to rule in your place. We have cut ourselves off from you, and our spirits are dry. By your steadfast love, call us together into new life, forgive and redeem us, raise us up to serve you in joy. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading – Psalm 118:1-4, 14-17

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

“God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say,

“God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the Lord say,

“God’s steadfast love endures forever.” R

The Lord is my strength and my might;

The Lord has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of righteousness.

The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, the right hand of the Lord is exalted,

The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

I shall not die, but I shall live,

And recount the deeds of the Lord. R

Gloria Patri

Offering of the Peace

Scripture –

Matthew 21:1-9

Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

21 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!”

Matthew 26:36-41, 69-75; 27:20-23, 45-46

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

26 ³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” ³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is

possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.”⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?”⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;^[a] the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Peter’s Denial of Jesus

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”⁷⁰ But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.”⁷¹ When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”^[a]⁷² Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.”⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”⁷⁴ Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed.⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

27 ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.²¹ The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.”²² Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”^[a] All of them said, “Let him be crucified!”²³ Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

The Death of Jesus

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land^[a] until three in the afternoon.

⁴⁶ 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?”

Sermon – “Afflictions Which Affect Us All ”

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn 195

**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I but count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Benediction

Postlude “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”