



188 E. Cooper Avenue, Crescent City, CA 95531
Marty Tyler, Pastor
Office: 707.464.4712 | GraceLutheranCC.com

A large, solid black cross is the central visual element, superimposed over a background of a sunset or sunrise over a mountain range. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue, with the sun partially visible behind the cross's vertical beam. The mountains in the foreground are dark and silhouetted.

THE HOUR HAS COME
for the Son of Man
TO BE GLORIFIED

JOHN 12:23

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

PALM SUNDAY/SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

24 March 2024, 10:15 am

AS WE GATHER

Palms and passion hardly seem to fit together but in Jesus they do. The palms welcomed Jesus to the triumph of suffering that paid the full price of our sin, and the hosannas cried out to Him who exchanged His life for death that we might live. There are no palms and hosannas that do not end in the cross, and there is no passion that does not lead us to faith and to rejoice in what His suffering accomplished. Our Lord came to the cross not as an unwilling victim but as the One who alone surrendered His life into death. We do not come to the Lord under coercion or as people compelled but at the bidding of the Gospel and by the power of the Holy Spirit! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING

WELCOME

GREETING

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

Amen.

Blesséd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

OPENING PRAYER

PROCESSION OF THE PALMS

DRAMATIC READING: "Riding Into Jerusalem"

[John 12:12-19]

After the reading:

*Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of the Lord.*

Please stand and face the processional cross at the entrance to the sanctuary.

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.
- 2 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.
- 3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.
- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on His sapphire throne
Awaits His own anointed Son.
- 5 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 pow'r and reign.

The procession concludes with the following:

Blesséd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

READING CONCLUSION

After the reading:

Blesséd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna to the King of kings.

Silence is observed to highlight the contrast between Jesus' triumphal entry and His passion.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Let us pray...

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, on this day when we remember Your entry into Jerusalem as King and Savior, we walk with You to Your cross, where Your righteousness is given to all who believe. Search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and personal prayers of confession.

With humble hearts, let us pray together.

Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.

You reign over all things and yet humbled Yourself for our salvation.

We confess that our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is the reason why You entered into this world.

It is why You passed through the gates of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and why You laid down Your life upon Calvary's cross on Good Friday—

to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

With hearts that are humble and lives that are grateful, help us to receive Your grace and bow before You in worship,

confessing that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, shows His mercy to us in the sending of His only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords. The One who entered into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was handed over to death upon the cross that we may be reconciled to the Father and granted His remission, full and free. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and in obedience to His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Because of our King's mercy, the gates of righteousness are opened to us.

"This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

SONG OF PRAISE

Shout Hosanna

Brett Younker, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Kristian Stanfill

To the King of glory and light, all praises.
To the only Giver of life, our Maker.
The gates are open wide; we worship You.

Come see what love has done, amazing.
He bought us with His blood, our Savior.
The cross has overcome; we worship You.

Chorus

Shout hosanna, Jesus, He saves!
Shout hosanna, He rose from the grave!
Come and lift Him up, Hosanna!

Now let the lost be found, forgiven.
Death could not hold Him down; He's risen.
So let the saints cry out, we worship You. **Chorus**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*Let us pray. . . Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

[Please refer to the back of your service folder or to the screens overhead.]

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

David Wilson

“The Coming of the King”

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 118:19-29 (antiphon: v. 26)

Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless You from the house of the LORD.

**Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.**

*This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.*

**I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

*The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.*

**This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

*This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Save us, we pray, O LORD!

O LORD, we pray, give us success!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

**The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.**

*Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!*

**You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.**

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 2:5-11

René Hutzell

“Christ's Example of Humility”

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

SONG OF CONTEMPLATION

On Bended Knee

Robert Gay

On bended knee we come, with a humble heart we come,
Bowing down before Your holy throne.
Lifting holy hands to You, as we pledge our love anew,
We worship You in spirit, we worship You in truth.
Make our lives a holy praise unto You.
Make our lives a holy praise unto You.

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GOSPEL READING: John 12:20-43

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

APOSTLES' CREED - SECOND ARTICLE

In the Second Article of the Creed, our confession is focused on Jesus, our Redeemer—who God in His love gave to bring us salvation and the promise of eternal life. We speak the words of the Creed:

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Please be seated.

SONG OF THE DAY

Majesty

Jack Hayford

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
Flow from His throne
Unto His own His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty.
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings. **[Repeat song]**

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MESSAGE

"A Glorious Death"
John 12:23-32

Pastor Marty Tyler

SONG OF OFFERING

There Is A Redeemer

Melody Green

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus

Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. **Chorus**

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Save us now, O Lord.

Lord Jesus, You entered the holy city on this day to shouts of "Hosanna!" for truly You came in the name of the LORD, we profess you to be our Savior. For Your obedient death upon the cross to secure our salvation, we give You thanks.

Use this, Your Church, to profess Your name and strengthen us to live such holy lives that many would come to find their peace in Your cross.

Bless the pastors of Your Church, Lord Jesus, during this week as they proclaim Christ crucified and Christ risen from the dead.

Give them insight into Your Word that their messages would move people to repentance and then lead them both to the cross and the open tomb.

Let the nations praise You, O God, for You are Lord of all. Raise up godly men and women in every land who will love justice and stand for what is good and right.

Bind Satan and his forces and restrain things that are evil.

Bless all who serve in our courts: judges, jurors, lawyers, legal assistants and all those who serve in law enforcement.

Cause truth to prevail, honesty to be rewarded, and freedoms to be preserved.

As You have experienced suffering here on earth, Lord, we know that You are able to identify with the struggles people have physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Dear Lord, according to Your gracious will, strengthen and heal those who are sick in mind, body or soul, and encourage all those Christians who face death with the promise of a place with You in paradise.

"Hosanna in the highest!"

Almighty and everlasting Son of God, who came in the flesh to suffer cruel death upon the cross, mercifully grant that we may follow Your example of great humility and patience and join the faithful who have gone before us as partakers of the resurrection and everlasting life with You in Your kingdom, which has no end.

"Hosanna in the highest!"

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; for You live and reign together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Mathew 6:9-13

[Please refer to the inside back cover the hymnal or to the overhead screens.]

Please be seated.

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

René Hutzell

“Seeds of the Savior”

- **Be in the Word:** This Holy Week read John chapters 13-16.
- **Having been planted in fertile soil, bear good fruit for the sake of your neighbor that God would be glorified.**
- **Be doing good works:** Invite someone to our Easter Celebration Service and Brunch.

Please stand.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, chose to suffer pain before going up to joy and crucifixion before entering into glory, mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, find this path to be the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

*The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.***

Please be seated.

THANKFUL GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of Grace Ministries.

Our ability to continue to serve you, the Church, and our community is greatly dependent upon the willingness of God's people to give of their time, talents and treasures. Please remember to support the LORD'S Church by regularly sending in your tithes and offerings; by mail, online at www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving, or download the *GivePlus* Mobile App. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). If you brought your tithe or offering with you today, you may place them in the box marked "I Bring An Offering To The Lord" sitting on the table next to the usher's station at the entrance to the sanctuary.

SENDING SONG

To God Be the Glory

Fanny J Crosby and William H Doane

To God be the glory great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Chorus

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory - great things He hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. **Chorus**

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. **Chorus 2X**

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Thank you for worshiping with us today.

Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Grace Fellowship Hall.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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