



Sunday, March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday

Service Theme
RETHINKING REAL STRENGTH

Most religions believe in a powerful God who will use his strength for the benefit of his followers. That invites the question: what is real strength? It is easy to assume that real strength means exerting your will over another by using any means necessary, including force. But this week we see Jesus Christ demonstrate a different kind of strength. We have come to Holy Week. It begins with Jesus humbly riding a donkey colt straight into the hands of his enemies. As the week progresses, it will appear that Christ's adversaries are the ones in a position of power and Jesus is in a position of weakness. Yet what Christ does this holy week—setting his divine strength aside, being passive in the face of death—would change the world. To do what Christ did for us and our salvation took real strength.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: On the first Palm Sunday, people lined the streets as Jesus rode into the city. Anthems filled the air as men, women, and children raised their palm branches as a sign of victory and peace. Today we worship that same Jesus who rode into Jerusalem on his way to win salvation for the world.

Men: Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

Women: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

*All Sing: Hosanna, loud hosanna, The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple,
The lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
Close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best. (CW 130:1)*

P: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Men: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Women: Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

All Sing: From Olivet they followed Mid an exultant
crowd,
The victor palm branch waving
And chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of saints and angels
Rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children
Should on his bidding wait. (CW 130:2)

P: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd did not want the people to praise Jesus. They said to him: "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" But Jesus replied: "I tell you the truth, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out!"

All: How can we be still? How can we remain silent?
Let the earth sing and the heavens rejoice!
Let all that has breath praise the Lord!
Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!
Amen.

All Sing: "Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song
we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heav'n, our King.
Oh, may we ever praise him
With heart and life and voice
And in his royal presence
Eternally rejoice. (CW 130:3)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess that we have no right to worship you, for we are sinful people. But we also know and trust that Jesus lived and died for us, to make us righteous and holy in your sight. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palms in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with confidence; the One who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Zechariah 9:9-12 EHV

The prophet Zechariah foretold a king who is both infinitely strong and perfectly humble. He would enter Jerusalem riding on the colt of a donkey.

⁹Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion!
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!
Look! Your King is coming to you.
He is righteous and brings salvation.
He is humble and is riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the horse from Jerusalem.
The battle bow will be taken away,
and he will proclaim peace to the nations.
His kingdom will extend from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you,
because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will release your prisoners from the waterless pit.
¹²Return to the stronghold, you prisoners who have hope.
This very day I declare that I will restore double to you.

PSALM 24
(CWS p. 42)

Refrain:

Sing hosanna! Loud hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the name of the Lord!

**The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters.**

**Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.**

Refrain

**Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty
in battle.**

**Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory.**

**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.**

Refrain

EPISTLE

Hebrews 12:1-3 (EHV)

Jesus demonstrated strength by enduring the cross for the joy set before him: redeeming us from our sin.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. ²Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God's throne. ³Carefully consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinful people, so that you do not grow weary and lose heart.

Verse of the Day

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”
(John 12:23)

Gospel Lesson

Mark 11:1-10 (EHV)

The almighty Son of God demonstrates real strength by humbly riding into Jerusalem knowing he will soon be put to death.

As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, on the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and told them, “Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it, and he will send it back here without delay.’ ”

⁴They left and found a colt on the street, tied at a door; and they untied it. ⁵Some who were standing there asked them, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶The disciples answered them just as Jesus had instructed them, and the men let them go.

⁷They brought the colt to Jesus, threw their garments on it, and Jesus sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their garments on the road. Others spread branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹Those who went in front and those who followed were crying out,

Hosanna!

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

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!
Hosanna in the highest!

SERMON HYMN

CWS 716 "No Tramp of Soldier's Marching Feet"

1 No tramp of soldiers' marching feet

With banners and with drums,

No sound of music's martial beat:

"The King of glory comes!"

To greet what pomp of kingly pride

No bells in triumph ring,

No city gates swing open wide:

"Behold, behold your King!"

2 And yet he comes. The children cheer;

With palms his path is strown.

With ev'ry step the cross draws near:

The King of glory's throne.

Astride a colt he passes by

As loud hosannas ring,

Or else the very stones would cry,

"Behold, behold your King!"

**3 What fading flow'rs his road adorn;
The palms, how soon laid down!
No bloom or leaf but only thorn
The King of glory's crown.
The soldiers mock, the rabble cries.
The streets with tumult ring,
As Pilate to the mob replies,
"Behold, behold your King!"**

**4 Now he who bore for mortals' sake
The cross and all its pains
And chose a servant's form to take,
The King of glory reigns.
Hosanna to the Savior's name
Till heaven's rafters ring,
And all the ransomed host proclaim,
"Behold, behold your King!"**

SERMON TEXT & THEME

Hebrews 12:1-3 ... **Fix your eyes on Jesus**

- 1) *As He endured the cross for the joy of saving you.*
- 2) *To find the strength you need to finish your race.*

The Apostles' Creed

(Melody: CW 160 "Alleluia! Sing To Jesus")

**I believe in God the Father,
Maker of the heav'n and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, our Savior,
God's own Son, of human birth.
Virgin born, the Lord incarnate,
whom the Spirit did conceive,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
He's the God whom I believe.
Crucified, was dead and buried;**

**Down to hell in victory;
From the dead He rose the third day;
Up to heaven triumphantly.
There at God's right hand He's ruling,
by his will the world is led.
He will come to judge the nations,
both the living and the dead.**

**I believe in God the Spirit;
in His Church, His chosen band.
They are joined in sweet communion;
Holy in his sight they stand.
I believe in sins forgiven;
I believe I'll rise again;
I believe in life eternal.
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

OFFERATORY PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus, you are the King of heaven and earth. We join the first Palm Sunday worshipers in praising and glorifying you for coming to this earth to be our Savior. Though you are one with God the Father and Lord of all, you humbled yourself and became one with us. Thanks be to you for living a life of perfect conformity to God's holy law in our place.

C: **Praise be to you for being obedient to death, even death on a cross, to redeem us from sin.**

M: Cause our voices to blend with those who sang your praises as you rode into Jerusalem. Move us to confess you before others as our Lord. Help us proclaim the message of peace and forgiveness to people of all nations. Use us to assure all people that your blood has cleansed them from sin and set them free from slavery to sin, death, and the devil.

C: Move us to dedicate all we are and have to your glory.

M: Lord Jesus, you are King over all the earth. Bless the nations of this world with wise rulers and good government. Let peace prevail. Grant success to the businesses and industries of our land to serve for the common good. Cause all employers to be honest and fair-minded and all employees to be diligent and faithful. Look with favor on our nation's schools. Be with those who teach and those who learn.

C: Comfort the sick and the afflicted with the assurance of your care and protection. Strengthen the faith of the dying.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Dear Savior, as we walk with you this week toward Calvary, keep us focused on your purpose for coming into this world and on our calling to spread this wonderful message of salvation.

C: Hear us for your mercy's sake. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PALM SUNDAY

M: We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

HYMN

CW 133 "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

**1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue your road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, your 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 th' approaching sacrifice.**

**4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your 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 your meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O Christ, your power and reign.**



**Divine Word
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**1081 Greenbank Rd.,
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8
613-825-1629**

www.divinewordottawa.ca

Announcements

Easter Flowers

For anyone wishing to help beautify the Easter Sunday Altar, please drop off the plant(s) of your choice to the church by 11:00 am on Saturday, March 30th. You are encouraged to take your plants home after the Easter Worship service. Any plants not taken away by the end of day on April 7th will need to be disposed of.

Church Cleaners:

March 31 – Thomas // April 7 - John

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (24) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship
12:00 pm Voters Meeting

**Th (28) 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday (with
Communion)**

Fr (29) 10:30 am Good Friday (no Communion)

Su (31) 8:00 am Easter Sunrise (with Communion)
9:00 am Easter Breakfast
10:30 am Easter Late (no Communion)
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore

Th (4) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (5) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
4:30 pm Youth Bible History (D)

Su (24) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship