

P A L M

Sunday



MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3215 DOUGLAS ROAD TOLEDO, OHIO 43606

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www.memorial-lutheran.org

EDUCATION: Youth and Adult, 9:00am

WORSHIP: 10:00 a.m.

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Please remember to send in your tithes and offerings. Even though worship is suspended our bills need to be paid and our operating expenses met.

While our worship and physical activities are suspended, our Lent worship services and Sunday services can be viewed by logging on to our website, www.memorial-lutheran.org or going to youtube.com and search Memorial Lutheran Toledo

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

GATHER

Processional Gospel

P: Matthew 21:1-11—When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This 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." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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 highest heaven!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Blessing of Palms

P. Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Procession

C. Let us go forth in peace. C. In the name of the Lord.

Processional song

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, King., t whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel and David’s royal Son, now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and Blessed One.

Refrain

The company of angels are praising you on high; creation and all mortals in chorus make reply

Refrain

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went; our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

Refrain

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise, To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Refrain

Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King.

Refrain

P. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C. Hosanna in the highest.

Palm Sunday Litany (based on psalm 31 and Philippians 2)

A. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

C. Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus. He is God’s son, humble, not a bragger.

A. Let us empty ourselves taking the form of a servant.

C. Let us die to ourselves, and obediently care for the other

A. God exalted Christ and we worship Him

C. We confess him as Jesus Christ, Lord of all, to the glory of the Father.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

A. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the 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.

C. Amen

WORD

Gospel Acclamation “Hosanna” (*Praise # 188, v 1*) *Piano*

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Lord we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise.

Be exalted, oh Lord my God! Hosanna in the highest!

Be Seated for the Reading

A: Matthew 27: 11-54 –Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So 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?" ¹⁸For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹While 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." ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²²Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" ²⁴So 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." ²⁵Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶So he released Barabbas for

them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. ²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and 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!" ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and 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." ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴²"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. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" ⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. ⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And 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?" ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸At 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. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now 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!"

Children's Message

Sermon

“My people need to know how God is working in times of crisis.”

First, let me tell you how proud I am of you. The way you are meeting challenges by looking for the new opportunity in them. I know that we are frightened, because we are dealing with the unknown. I know that I have made many decisions, and things have had to change rapidly as we have new challenges thrown at us. Many of you have thanked me for the ministry that I am providing, but the thanks do not go to me, everything, everything I have done or said is what I have heard in prayer. I am not letting my personal worry, health, anxiety get in my decision making. I know that God is in control and everything is to his glory. He is the one who is working at this time. This sermon was written a week and a half before Palm Sunday because we have been working ahead as much as possible to make sure people can be in worship together, to receive God’s presence together, to be empowered by God’s Spirit in His word.

I know that we will see death, we will see financial crisis, we will see major change that is not comfortable or even desirable. But I do know that God is with us. And we can allow Him to lead us.

He has said to me time and again, “My people need to know who I am working in times of crisis.”

First, we need to remember that God has already had victory over evil. We need to believe that and live it. We are resurrection people and serve a resurrection God. This is the week we remember what happened in between Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, marching on a humble donkey into the new Seder Meal on Thursday where he gives us His real presence in times of crisis and into trial, torture, and crucifixion. He meets death head on and defeats it on the first Easter Sunday morning with resurrection.

I encourage you to read Revelation 5. John, the pastor-apostle who is in exile in isolation sees Jesus.

He sees a throne and someone sitting on it whom he does not even attempt to describe, but in his hand there is a scroll. There is writing on both sides of this scroll and it is sealed with seven seals. A call goes forth for someone to open the scroll, but no one is found who is able to open it. John understands the enormous significance of the scroll and begins to weep at the terrible calamity that he feels. But just then, he is told: “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” John immediately turns to see this great lion that has just been described to him, but he does not see a lion. He sees a lamb. And not just any lamb, but one with

death wounds. John can see the blood and the open wounds with which he has been inflicted.

What a shock it must have been for John to look for this great lion who would rip the seals with his great claws, only to see a small wounded lamb. But it is the lamb who walks up to the One seated on the throne and takes the scroll. And in the subsequent chapters, as he opens the seals, scenes come forth that set in motion the events of the final days of earth's history. When these events are released by the Lamb, they rush forth with power and fury, and all the host of heaven fall on their faces as they worship the Lamb. It is an incredible and astonishing scene.

This is our God, the mighty lamb who was wounded, but has triumphed! Here in Revelations the lion is the lamb. His power was found in his death, because with his death he purchased the souls of people, and he was thereby made worthy to open the scroll.

We watch Jesus today enter the city, hailed by the crowd as a king. But he's not on a horse, but on a lowly donkey, and he is marching in not as a lion, but as a lamb. God's strength is disguised as weakness. The secret here to God's great strength is in his apparent weakness.

Look at the Lamb of God dying on the cross. Was there ever any greater appearance of weakness on the part of God? They taunted him and said, "Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:40). The irony was that he was able to come down from the cross, but chose not to. What God was doing was the most powerful act that he would ever perform. Greater than the creation of the world, and greater than bringing the world to an end, Christ's redemptive act on the cross was God at work in his greatest hour. His strength was hidden, but it was God's most powerful moment. In this humble act of God, the devil was shamed and robbed of his power. We will never know, this side of heaven, what terrible struggles took place in the spiritual world between Palm Sunday and Easter morning. But one thing we do know: the lamb became a lion.

Right now, you could be asking, as the world is asking, where is God? In the midst of a world disease, a volatile market, losing work, the obvious feeling of inability, even to leave your own house. I'm sure that people have shaken their fist at the sky and shouted, come down god and fix this now. We want a display of power, we want to know we are on the winning side, we don't want to be seen as weak.

His purpose in this is profound. What if God always won? What if good always triumphed and doing the right always paid tremendous dividends. Everyone would flock to God and follow him. People will do the things they benefit from personally. And people also want to be on the winning side. It makes them feel important. So God could actually win the world over through a consistent display

of power. But where would people's hearts be? Would they love God for himself, or for his power? Would they love him or fear him? Would they want God to use their lives, or would they want to use God for their own purposes? This is the holy week question. What about a God who appears to be weak? What if it looks like evil is winning?

Oh, how the disciples felt at the feet of their savior, watching Him die on the cross. Think of those followers who were hiding in fear, not sure if this was their last breath too. We understand them. It takes courage to stand up for what is right. And after the resurrection, there was no stopping them. They became Easter people. And we are Easter people too. Resurrection encouraged Easter people are the kind of people God wants for his followers. Anyone can take the easy road, and you don't have to be much of a person to do it. But Jesus said we must, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it" (Matthew 7:13).

Think of the humility of God as he tries to do his work through us. Think of the humility of God as he decides to come to earth to take on himself the form of a man. What power was hidden in this apparent weakness! Isaiah prophesied about him saying, "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). Such willingness to submit himself to weakness, and yet what power!

We are uncomfortable that Jesus asks us to join him in his weakness. While he was here, he said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29). He often asks us to do the opposite of the way the people of the world think. Jesus said, "The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Matthew 23:11-12). Strength from weakness. He said that we were not to resist evil with force (Matthew 5:39), and backed it up with his life. The Bible says, "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly" (1 Peter 2:21-23). What is he calling you to do?

Do not panic. Fear not! Fear not! Fear not! Then he asks you to obey. Then he asks you to love. Then he asks you to work.

The first work he calls you to is to get down on your knees and pray. Get on your knees, the total appearance of weakness. But this appearance is God's strength. This is his reality. He rules the world, regardless of what anyone thinks. And the world thinks this weakness is foolishness. But the Bible says, "For the foolishness

of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. . . . But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him” (1 Corinthians 1:25, 27-29). I, my friends, am the biggest fool, but my God is ultimate. In Him I trust. I can rest in that. I can rest. I know that God has a plan. Remember Revelations 5? There is a scroll. There is a plan. Written out by God's hand to be fulfilled. God is vigilant, we are headed somewhere. There is a plan, and it is revealed in the First book, through the Old Testament, into the Gospels, and through the epistles and ultimately in Revelation.

The Bible is clear about what the plan is, for it says, “And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfilment — to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory” (Ephesians 1:9-12). Here is God's great plan for the world: that your life will result in the praise of God's glory. He has formed the world for this purpose, and he will bring about the end to the present world system so that the validity of your life and his plan might be seen by all.

God will win in the end because there is a scroll. The plan is in his hand. No team ever goes onto the field without a game plan. They learn the fundamentals of the sport. They watch films studying the tactics of their opponents. They figure out how to counteract the maneuvers of the other team. If the other team tries their usual game plan, they will go with plan A. If they try something else, plan B is developed. Sometimes they will double-team a player. They might try an end run. But they always have a plan. If ever a team just wandered out onto the field just to see how things would go, they would certainly lose. God has a plan. He knows the opponent perfectly. He will use his own game plan against him — and he will win in the end. We can rest in is: God is in control. God's humility is born out of confidence. You can be humble when you know that you are going to win in the end. You don't have to overpower everyone and everything. Sometimes we look around at the world and it seems like evil is winning, but we have the scroll, and we know who wins in the end. God is in control. Appearances are deceiving. Things are not always what they appear to be. The lion is a lamb, but the lamb is also a lion.

Let's go back to the Garden of Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday. Soldiers were there, armed. Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of one of guard, but Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once

put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:52-53). Jesus was completely in control, even though he allowed it to appear that others were in control of him, and even of history. John’s record of the account includes something that Matthew, Mark and Luke did not. John replaced the signal from Judas with Jesus’ own admission. In John 18:6, as the apprehending Roman officers came to Christ, he asked them, who they were looking for. The soldiers said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus then identified himself as the person they were looking for. As soon as he said, “I am he”, something strange happened. The soldiers drew back and fell to the ground. They fell to the ground, like a fallen timber. Christ had enormous power. He was in complete control then. He is still in complete control today.

We usually think of the imagery of a small, young lamb to be harmless. But listen to what happens when the Lamb opens the fifth seal: “Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?’” (Revelation 6:15-17). The Lamb of God will conquer all the powers of the earth. They will prefer death to facing the lamb. And when that happens, God will share his kingdom with us. Not only does God ask us to share in his weakness, but he will also ask us to share in his strength, for the Bible says, “They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings — and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers” (Revelation 17:14).

So I want to say to you today: The struggle is worth it. The battle may be long and it may be weary. It may appear that you are losing. But keep leaning on God, and while this may appear to others to be weakness, it is your strength. And you will triumph in the end. Paul said, “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10). Lean in. Do not give in. We don’t know what is going on, but we know who is in charge and he asks you to love. Right there on Thursday around the table, Jesus tells you to love one another. Right there on Thursday he humbles himself and washes our feet to comfort us. Right there on Thursday he gives us His presence in the bread and the wine. The body and blood. That is the reality.

The power of evil is only an illusion. It is counterfeit. The Bible says, “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. . . . So then, brothers, stand firm. . . .

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word” (2 Thessalonians 2:9-17).

So what do we do? Let me suggest a few practical things we should do knowing that Jesus remains in control. First, we ought to follow the example of the heavenly beings did: they worshipped God with all their might. They sang loudly, praising, exalting Him. We ought to do the same. Keep praising God. Keep remembering His greatness. Keep declaring your love to Him.

Secondly, we ought to pray. Revelation shows us something about the prayers of God’s people. John tells us that our prayers are gathered in a “bowl” or in a “cup.’ Once the cup is filled, God acts. I love this picture. Every prayer we make, every petition we state, every time we unload our cares, our burdens, our concerns, the cup is being filled. God’s act is coming.

Thirdly, we ought to know God better. Pity the man who does not know God. In times of crisis, he or she would have nothing to lean on. Know God through the Word. We can also know God carefully listening to Him as he speaks to us. Listen to him with your heart and your mind.

Next, each one of us should continue to trust the Lord. Trust Him. Trust your Lord. He is powerful. His ways may appear weak at time, but He is strong. Trust Him. He has a plan. Trust his plan. He knows where you and I are going. He knows our destination. Trust Him, he is in control.

Lastly, Jesus calls us to be his hands and feet. Jesus calls us to tell the good news. Jesus calls us to serve, to work, to strive for God’s people. We are his Easter People. We are empowered with His resurrection power. Do not give up or give in. Keep doing. Work at home, love your family, love your neighbors, do what you can do. Help others with your finances. Help others with your knowledge. Be little Christs to each other. Troubles will come, we need all of us to meet every challenge and treat it as an opportunity to praise God and do His work of salvation for our city, country and world.

Sermon Song: “All Hail King Jesus!” (*Praise #71*) *Sing 2x piano (stand)*

All Hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel, King of Kings, Lord of lords, Bright Morning Star

And throughout eternity, I’ll sing Your praises;

And I’ll reign with You throughout eternity.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer 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 and those who face execution. 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth (*especially*), 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.

Response

Peace

P. The Lord be with you. C. **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

SEND

Blessing

P. Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

C. Amen.

Closing Song "The King of Glory" (TOS #206) piano

Refrain

The king of glory comes, The nation rejoices Open the gates before him, Lift up your voices.

1. Who is the king of glory, How shall we call him? He is Emmanuel, the promise of ages.

Refrain

The king of glory comes, The nation rejoices Open the gates before him, Lift up your voices.

2. In all of galilee, in city or village He goes among his people, curing their illness

Refrain

The king of glory comes, The nation rejoices Open the gates before him, Lift up your voices.

**3. He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation;
He took up on himself the sins of the nation.**

Refrain

The king of glory comes, The nation rejoices Open the gates before him, Lift up your voices.

Dismissal

P. Go in peace. Share the good news. C. Thanks be to God