

Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
Sunday, April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday  
Order of Worship

*Seasonal Theme:*

We head toward the passion and cross of Christ.

*Theme for the day:*

The reality of the last rally into Jerusalem leading up to the Last Supper, arrest, trial, crucifixion, and burial of Jesus.

*Call to worship:*

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. This is a day of triumph for our Savior -- give thanks for this day that leads to the cross! Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs! Fill the air with welcome to the Lord! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. God's steadfast love endures forever. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.

*Prayer of Illumination:*

Holy God, you reveal the truth about your people, and the ways of our world, in the suffering of the Son and his steadfast love. Show us again the face of humility you desire for us, and teach us obedience. Let your word appeal to us through the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may enter into this holy week with the same mind that was in Christ. Amen.

*Readings from Scripture:*      **Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29**      **Matthew 21:1-11**  
*[texts of Scripture follow the service, beginning on page 2]*

*Message:*      **DEFINE AND REFINE**

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Without the breath of life, we are nothing; and without the word of God, we are dust. Let us offer our lives and offering to God (which you may send by mail, if you wish).*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:*

God of all gifts, we thank for showing us how to care for each other. May these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have nothing set before them, and proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace. In the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

*Blessing and Benediction*

Stay refined with God. He is the cornerstone of our faith. Stay with him during this holy week.

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Scripture Readings – April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday

*first reading – PSALM 118:1-2; 19-29*

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

Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures forever.'

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 chief 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 beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

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

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, 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.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

*second reading – MATTHEW 21:1-11*

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

*'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.'*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!'*

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'  
The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

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Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472  
sebumc@sonic.net sebumc.org YouTube channel: Sebastopol UMC

*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*