

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, March 28, 2021
PALM SUNDAY

Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

Jesus makes his way toward Jerusalem and the cross, so that we might have undeserved forgiveness for our sins.

Theme for the day:

There is an extravagance of love in Jesus's anointing at Bethany as he prepares to enter Jerusalem.

Call to worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer).*

Pastor: O give thanks to our God, who is good.

People: **God's steadfast love endures forever!**

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

People: **For Christ has opened the gates of righteousness, that we may enter.**

Pastor: He has emptied himself for love of us.

People: **Christ took human form, that we might know we are known.**

Pastor: We give thanks to our God, who is good.

Unison: **God's steadfast love endures forever. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Holy Jesus, you have come in God's name and for our sake. You have entered our souls in moments of shouted hosannas and waving cloaks. And you have come just the same to our late nights and our confused hearts. Come to us again, and let us follow. Let your name be on our tongues and in our hearts. May your word move within us and renew our faith. May the same mind be in us that was in Jesus, that we might have courage. Amen.

rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

second reading – **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

third reading – **MARK 11:1-11**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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Sebastopol United Methodist Church

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.