

Palm Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning God wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵ GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I 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.

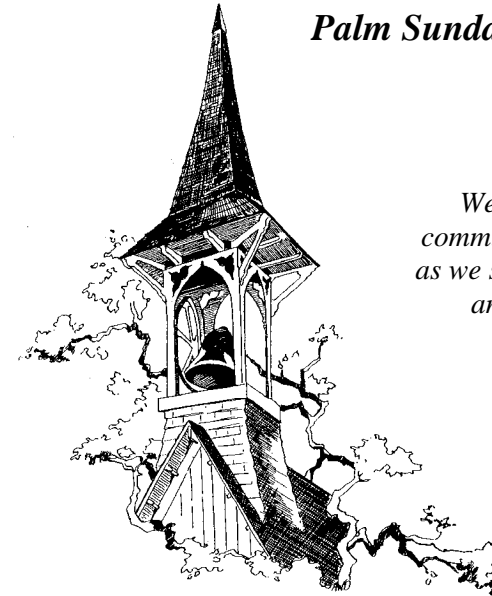
⁷ GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸the One who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Luke 19:28-40

²⁸After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.
²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Palisades Presbyterian Church
Palisades, New York 10964
April 1, 2007

Palm Sunday



*We are a Christian
community welcoming all
as we seek to grow in faith
and serve others.*

From *Poetry And Religion*

by Les Murray

Religions are poems. They concert
our daylight and dreaming mind, our
emotions, instinct, breath and native gesture

into the only whole thinking: poetry.
Nothing's said till it's dreamed out in words
and nothing's true that figures in words only.

Palisades Presbyterian Church
The Palisades Presbyterian Church Welcomes You
Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007

Prelude

Church Bell

Introit

***Call to Worship**

Leader: In caring and compassion, God's arms embrace us when we feel weak and alone.

All: Let us open our arms to share that embrace with others.

Leader: With ideas and inspiration, God pushes us to thrive.

All: Let us give that seed new roots by planting it in the soil of other's lives.

Leader: With divine generosity, God shares all creation with us.

All: Let us share that bounty with all for whom God created it,

Leader: God calls us as partners to build a world of joy and hope.

All: Let us build a world where our lives, and those of our sisters and brothers, may resound in praise of our gracious God.

Leader: God of compassion, you call us to care.

All: We hear your call.

Leader: God of understanding, you call us to reach out.

All: We hear your call.

Leader: God of justice, you call us to act..

All: We hear your call.

In a world that teaches hatred, selfishness, and injustice, you call us to do your work. You call us to love, compassion, and justice. We answer your call. Amen.

Communion of the People All are welcome!

Prayer after Communion:

In Unison...

Generous and loving God, we cannot know why we are blessed as we are when others suffer cruelly. As we share in the grace of this communion meal, keep us mindful of our abundance, and help us listen to your voice – taking the spiritual grace of this spiritual sustenance into the world, better able to be your hands and heart among our neighbors. Amen.

Offering our Gifts and Tithes

***Hymn #592** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Offering our Joys and Concerns for Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

***Hymn #89** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude

**All that are able please stand.*

Dying on the cross, Jesus saves us from death, having changed the oppressor's tool of execution into a symbol of promise and eternal life. Alive with us today, we rely on him and his guidance.

Remembering all this and more, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate Jesus: his dying, rising, and his eternal presence among us.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you, broken in some ways as this bread will be, working in a fractured and hungry world, knowing that we are made whole in service to you. Great is the mystery of faith:

People:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader:

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that this meal may be for us a communion in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Make us one together with him and all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us in hope, and inspire us in steadfast love, so that we may serve as your faithful disciples all the days of our lives. We ask these things humbly, in the name of the one we serve.

People: Amen

Blessing of the Bread & Cup:

On the night of his arrest, Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup, saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood, shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the saving death of the risen Jesus, with us today.

***Hymn 88** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Merciful God, we are the work of your hands, but we do not always use our hands to do your work. You have given us hands for touching, but we sometimes clench them in solitude. You have given us hands for building, but we too often use them to build barriers. You have given us hands for sharing, and now and then we use them for taking. These hands meant for tilling your garden end up sowing discord; and, instead of using them to always welcome the strangers – the angels - among us, we extend them from too far a distance to touch those whom we do not know.

Hands for feeling the texture of your creation, feeding the hungry, mending, being lifted up in praise, meant to be joined with others in human nets of love – these hands too often miss the marks of their creation and their Creator.

Help us God, please. Mend our hearts that we may unclench our hands; open our fingers to feel the textures of your grace and to share them with one another. Help us to join our hands, weaving our connections into a fabric of wholeness. Help us to serve one another with whatever gifts you have placed into these hands. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, who teaches us how to open our hearts and our hands to one another. Amen.

Silent Confession

Choral Response

Declaration of Forgiveness:

***Hymn #322** Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Offering to One Another of a Sign of Peace

Announcements

Pastor Nominating Committee Update Mercy Garland, Chairperson

Children's Message John Guzewich

Prayer for Illumination

1st Reading	Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a
Anthem	<i>Ride On, Ride On in Majesty</i> W. Glen Dorst
2nd Reading	The Gospel of Luke 19:28 – 40
Sermon	<i>Hearts and Stones</i>
*Hymn #513	<i>Let Us Break bread Together</i>

Celebration of Communion - All Are Welcome at the Table!

Communion The Invitation to Jesus' Table

Leader: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People: **They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.**

Leader: According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at the table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them.

People: **Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.**

Leader This is that same table.

People: **All are invited to share this feast, which God has prepared.**

Great Thanksgiving:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader:

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give thanks and praise to the One who is with us always. It is especially joyful to celebrate our gratitude on this Sunday, this Palm Sunday, as we move more deeply into the mystery we share.

We recall that through the words of the prophets, the Spirit of God promised us a Redeemer, giving us hope for the day when justice would roll down like waters in a mighty stream. We rejoice now, for in Jesus Christ that day of rushing winds and waters is upon us and carrying us onward.

In thanksgiving and anticipation we praise you, and we join our voices with the choirs of angels, the prophets, the apostles, and the saints. We gather here in this sanctuary with the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name in the great mystery of your presence.

People Sing Hosanna!

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

Leader:

You are holy, O God of Majesty, and blessed is Jesus the Christ. Born of Mary, Jesus *lives* with us. Eating with those who have found distance from God, he welcomes us all back into God's presence. As we guide children with his teachings, he teaches us, again. Visiting the sick as he did, he heals us in ways beyond the physical limitations of these bodies of ours.