AS WE GATHER
Ascribed to our Jesus, our Christ, our Savior, are the titles King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Throughout this Lententide, we have heard of other kings, some from the Old Testament – David, Saul, Solomon, Ahab, Zedekiah – and one New Testament king who reigned at the time of Jesus’ birth, Herod the Great. The glory days of King David had long disappeared from Israel’s history; yet the people pinned their hopes on a restoration of those days. They thought that restoration would come through Jesus. They welcomed Him to Jerusalem as their king. But what kind of king is Jesus?

+ PREPARATION +

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: LSB 442 “All Glory, Laud and Honor”
GREETING AND DOXOLOGY

Pastor: The grace of our + Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord is near to those who call on Him.

People: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

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

People: Hosanna to the Son of David.
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All: King of kings and Lord of lords, You know our hearts and minds; You know that so often our thoughts, words, and acts and worship are not always pure and thus we sin against You. We confess also our sins against You and against our neighbors. Forgive us our sins and create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within each of us. Do not cast us away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.

Pastor: Jesus came into this world to forgive our sins and declare us free from the tyranny of Satan. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen. Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

COLLECT PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City,
Guide us to proclaim Him as our King and, when He comes again, lead us out to meet Him with trusting and committed hearts, following Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 50:4-9

Reader:

4 The Lord God has given me
   the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
   him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
   he awakens my ear
   to hear as those who are taught.
5 The Lord God has opened my ear,
   and I was not rebellious;
   I turned not backward.
6 I gave my back to those who strike,
   and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
   from disgrace and spitting.

7 But the Lord God helps me;
   therefore I have not been disgraced;
   therefore I have set my face like a flint,
   and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
8 He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
9 Behold, the Lord God helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

EPISTLE Philippians 2:5-11 (...taking the form of a servant)
Reader: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
People: who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Reader: but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men He humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!
People: Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All:   Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
GOSPEL  John 12: 12-19

Pastor:   The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 12th chapter.
People:   Glory to You, O Lord.

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him.”

Pastor:   This is the Gospel of our Lord.
People:   Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY:  LSB 441“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”
tribes hosanna cry. O Savior meek, pure
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy triumphs
armies of the sky Look down with sad and
fiercest strife is nigh. The Father on His
pomp ride on to die. Bow Thy meek head to

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MESSAGE FOR THE DAY - “The Ride of His Life”

HYMN LSB 444 “No Tramp of Soldiers Marching Feet”

1 No tramp of soldiers’ marching feet
2 And yet He comes. The children cheer;
3 What fading flow’rs His road adorn;
4 Now He who bore for mortals’ sake
mar - tial beat: “The King of glo - ry comes!”
cross draws near: The King of glo - ry’s throne.
on - ly thorn The King of glo - ry’s crown.
form to take, The King of glo - ry reigns.

To greet what pomp of king - ly pride
A - stride a colt He pass - es by
The sol - diers mock, the rab - ble cries,
Ho - san - na to the Sav - ior’s name

No bells in tri - umph ring, No cit - y gates swing
As loud ho - san - nas ring, Or else the ver - y
The streets with tu - mult ring, As Pi - late to the
Till heav - en’s raf - ters ring, And all the ransomed

o - pen wide: “Be - hold, be - hold your King!”
stones would cry “Be - hold, be - hold your King!”
mob re - plies, “Be - hold, be - hold your King!”
host pro - claim “Be - hold, be - hold your King!”

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
Leader: With hosannas we come before You, O Lord of hosts.
People: We praise You for sending us Your Son as the King who came in Your name to establish peace between heaven and earth.

Leader: We are thankful that He did not consider Himself too far above us to become truly human.
People: We cannot adequately express our appreciation for His death on the cross.

Leader: O Lord Jesus Christ, this day we confess that we have not always been faithful to our calling as Your chosen people.
People: The deeds of our lives have often not matched the confession of our lips.

Leader: We have neglected prayer, Your Word, and Your Sacraments - Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
People: We know, O Lord, that You are merciful. We dare to come before You, begging for forgiveness.

Leader: May the forgiveness that we receive through Your Word and Sacraments enable us to live lives of dedicated discipleship.
People: Send us Your Holy Spirit to keep us on the path that leads to You.

Leader: Grant us grace to live to Your honor and glory.
People: so that our lives will reflect our eternal gratitude.
(Special Petitions)

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER
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.

WE ENTER HOLY WEEK: THE PASSION OF CHRIST
Pastor: Then the whole company of them arose, and brought Jesus before Pilate. And they began to accuse him.

We found this man perverting our nation.
and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar,
All: and saying that he himself is Christ a king.

Reader: And Pilate asked him, 
_Are you the King of the Jews?_

Pastor: You have said so.

Reader: And Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes,  
_I find no crime in this man._  
_But they were urgent._  
_He stirs up the people,_  
_teaching throughout all Judea_  
from Galilee even to this place.

Reader: When Pilate heard this he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at this time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length; but he made no answer. The chief priest and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod and his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. Pilate then called the chief priests and the rulers of the people.
Reader: You brought me this man as one who was perverting the
people; and after examining him before you, behold, I
did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against
him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us.
Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him; I
will therefore chastise him and release him.
But they all cried out together,

All: AWAY WITH THIS MAN, AND RELEASE TO US
BARABBAS!

Reader: --a man who had been thrown into prison for
insurrection started in the city, and for murder. Pilate
addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus;
but they shouted out,

All: CRUCIFY, CRUCIFY HIM!

Reader: A third time he spoke to them:
Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no
crime deserving of death; I will therefore chastise him
and release him.
But they were urgent with loud cries:

All: HE SHOULD BE CRUCIFIED!

Reader: And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence
that their demand should be granted. He released the
man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection
and murder, whom they had asked for; but Jesus he
delivered up to their will. And as they led him away,
they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in
from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turn to them said:

**Pastor:** Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children, For behold, the days are coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed!! Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us;" and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

**Reader:** Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And then they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said,

**Pastor:** Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

**Reader:** And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him:

*He saved others; let him save himself,*

*if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!*

**Reader:** The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar.

*If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!*
Reader: There was also an inscription over him: "This is the King of the Jews."
One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him: 
Are not you the Christ? Save yourself and us!

All: But the other rebuked him.

Reader: Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom
Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

Reader: It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

Pastor: Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!

Reader: And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said,
Certainly this man was innocent!

Reader: And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.
BENEDICTION
Pastor: Go with the Suffering Servant who died to make us righteous and gives us new life to rise with Him to eternal life. The blessing of God the Father, the *Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and go with you forever.

People: Amen.

Hymn: LSB 433 “Glory Be to Jesus”

1 Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
2 Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
4 Abel's blood for vengeance Plead-ed to the skies;

Poured for me the life-blood From His sacred veins!
Blest be His compassion, In-finitely kind!
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

5
Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.

6
Lift we, then, our voices,
    Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
    Praise the precious blood!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Great resources for Spiritual Development during this time:

www.LCMS.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries daily devotions:
https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions/default.asp?date=20200330