

St. Johns Lutheran Church

They took branches of palm trees and went
out to meet him



shouting, “Hosanna!
(meaning - “Save Us Now”)

St. Johns Lutheran Church

St. Louis, Missouri

Advent Midweek 3

December 14th, 2022

A Tale of Trees from Death to Life

Palm Tree (Tree of Welcome)

AS WE GATHER

Mary’s response has become the primary model for all who would come to believe in Jesus thereafter: “Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Mary welcomes God to do an incredible thing in her life. She welcomes her Savior to dwell in her. In the moments of our lives when it seems impossible that we could be forgiven and we are without hope, God comes to us with words of forgiveness through Jesus. “Let it be to me according to Your word.” When we are struck with grief in the face of death and hope seems distant, God comes to us with words of

eternal life in Jesus. “Let it be to me according to Your word.” Advent brings hope into the midst of life’s most impossible situations.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (2 *BLUE*, 1 *PINK*)

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

the light no darkness can overcome.

By the Holy Spirit we cry out with the whole Church,

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

All who wait for Jesus to return pray,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway *LSB 343*

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!

Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!

Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!

God’s people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before Him!

Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God’s promise will not fail you!

No more shall doubt assail you!

Refrain

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev’ry nation Its tribute too should bring.

All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!

Refrain

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav’n above.

**His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so a bounding:
*Refrain***

ADVENT LITANY

O God, our Father, You made a perfect and beautiful world. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed you by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree, sin and its curse corrupted the earth. Like them, we turn away from doing your will and so incur the curse of death. Turn us back to you to repent of our disobedience.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Heavenly Father, in your mercy and love you promised us a savior from sin's curse. Thank you for establishing the family of Abraham, of Jesse and David, of Joseph and Mary to bring forth that savior, and thank you for grafting us into your family tree.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Almighty Lord, you were welcomed with palm branches and Hosannas when you entered Jerusalem. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we not only praise you with our lips, but also honor you with our lives.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Dear Jesus, You are the light of the world that no darkness can put out. As we light candles of prophecy and proclamation this season, let the light of your love shine on us.

Make us your lights that we may shine the good news of your forgiveness on all we meet.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Lord Jesus, as we remember your birth in Bethlehem, remind us that you came because of our sin. In your great love for us, you endured humility and shame, dreadful suffering, and death on the tree of the cross. In dying, you paid for our forgiveness, and in rising, you opened the kingdom of heaven to us.

Help us to put our trust in your saving grace.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you created us, redeemed us, and made us Your own people. Keep us faithful to

You all the days of our lives, that we may eat the fruit of the tree of life in Heaven and give You all thanks and praise forever.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

The Lord has had mercy and has come to us. When we repent of our sins, He covers them with Jesus' righteousness. Thanks be to God!

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

To You, O Lord, we lift up our heads to see the King of glory coming. Your angels declared His coming long ago in the age of the prophets. A whole heavenly host, rejoiced and sang His glory at His birth. Shepherds welcomed him in a stable, and Wise men welcomed Him with gifts. Lift up your heads and your hearts O Jerusalem to welcome your salvation and rejoice with Hosannas sing: The King of glory comes!

Amen.

READING *John 12:12-13 (Triumphal entry w/palm branches)*

¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ 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!"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING *Mark 11:1-10 (Triumphal entry w/branches and clothes)*

¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'"⁴ And they went away and found a

colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵ And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING *Luke 2: 10-12, 16, 20*

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”....¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger....²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come *LSB* 350 st. 1,3,4

**Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.**

**My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.**

**Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.**

READING *Revelation 7:9*

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

OFFERING AND TREE DECORATIONS

Choir sings: LSB 334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

PRAYERS

As we wait for You, O Lord, we pray for peace among nations,
Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guide us, like Mary, to say “let it be to me as you have said,” even in the difficult circumstances of our lives. Humble us before You, that we may gratefully welcome whatever You provide.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Excite us, like the shepherds with haste to find the baby, glorifying and praising God. Fill Your whole Church with anticipation for that day when Christ will return and guide us to the throne with white robes and palm branches in our hands. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Thank You, Lord, for the blessings of this day now almost past.

Forgive both what we have neglected to do and what we have done wrong. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Heal the sick. Bless the dying. Uphold caregivers. Fill those who mourn with abundant hope through Christ's death and resurrection. Let all who suffer experience Your compassionate presence.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Accompany those who travel and those who work through the night to serve our community. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for entering our hearts, may we prepare our lives to welcome you with hosannas and palm branches keeping you in high honor and esteem.

Amen.

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.

NEPALESE SONG

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ✠ give us peace.

Amen.

HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

**Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth:
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines His Infant Light. [Refrain]**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. [Refrain]**

**Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. [Refrain]**

**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. [Refrain]**

Preacher	Isaac Hedstrom
Liturgist	Vicars
Organist	Suzanne Manelli

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