

**John 12:12-19 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> 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!" <sup>14</sup> And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

<sup>15</sup> "Fear not, daughter of Zion;  
behold, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

**ORDER OF MATINS**

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**Opening Versicle***Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1 with Gloria Patri*

Verse: O Lord, open my lips.

**Response: And my mouth will declare Your praise**

Verse: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**Response: Make haste to help me, O God.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our Salvation.**

**PSALMODY**

Verse: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**Response: O come, let us worship Him.**

**VENITE**

Psalm 95:1-7

**O come let us sing to the Lord  
Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;  
Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.  
For the Lord is a great God  
And a great King above all gods.  
The deep places of the earth are in His hand;  
The strength of the hills is His also.  
The sea is His, for He made it;  
And His hand formed the dry land.  
Oh, come let us worship and bow down;  
Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.  
For He is our God,  
And we are the people of His pasture  
And the sheep of His hand.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
And to the Holy Spirit  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now, and will be; forever. Amen.**

Verse: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**Response: O come, let us worship Him.**

**Psalm 118:19-29 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> **This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.**

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

**22 The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.**

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**24 This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

<sup>25</sup> Save us, we pray, O Lord!

O Lord, we pray, give us success!

**26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

<sup>27</sup> The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.  
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

**28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God; I will extol you.**

<sup>29</sup> Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

**OFFICE HYMN LSB #443**      "*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*"

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna,  
The little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple  
The lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them,  
Close folded to His breast,  
The children sang their praises,  
The simplest and the best.
2. From Olivet they followed  
Mid an exultant crowd,  
The victor palm branch waving  
And chanting clear and loud.  
The Lord of earth and heaven  
Rode on in lowly state  
Nor scorned that little children  
Should on His bidding wait.

3. "Hosanna in the highest!"  
That ancient song we sing;  
For Christ is our Redeemer,  
The Lord of heav'n our King.  
Oh, may we ever praise Him  
With heart and life and voice  
And in His blissful presence  
Eternally rejoice!

**READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a** (ESV)    *The Suffering Servant*

- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> 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.
- <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Behold, the Lord God helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

Versicle: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)** *The Humility of Christ*

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Versicle: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**Matthew 26:1-13 (ESV)** *The Plot and Anointing for Burial*

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

<sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup> and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. <sup>5</sup> But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

<sup>6</sup> Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. <sup>8</sup> And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? <sup>9</sup> For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” <sup>10</sup>

But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>11</sup> For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup> In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. <sup>13</sup> Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

Versicle: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORY for Lent:**

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Antiphon: We have an advocate with the Father;  
Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

**Response: He was delivered up to death;  
He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Antiphon: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven  
and whose sin is put away.

**Response: He was delivered up to death;  
He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Antiphon: We have an advocate with the Father;  
Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

**Response: He was delivered up to death;  
He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

**CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTION & SERMON**

“Christ Poured Out; but not Wasted”

**Psalm 31:5, 9-16 (ESV)** *Into Your Hand*

<sup>5</sup> Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. ...

<sup>9</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
**my eye is wasted** from grief;  
my soul and my body also.

<sup>10</sup> For **my life is spent** with sorrow,

and my years with sighing;  
**my strength fails** because of my iniquity,  
 and **my bones waste** away.

<sup>11</sup> Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,  
 especially to my neighbors,  
 and an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
 those who see me in the street flee from me.

<sup>12</sup> I have been forgotten like one who is dead;  
 I have become like a broken vessel.

<sup>13</sup> For I hear the whispering of many—  
 terror on every side!—

as they scheme together against me,  
 as they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup> **But I trust in you, O LORD;**  
 I say, “You are my God.”

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand;  
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

<sup>16</sup> Make your face shine on your servant;  
**save me in your steadfast love!**

To borrow a line from Charles Dickens, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ...” “A Tale of Two Cities” pours out a saga of radical opposites taking place across the English Channel during the French revolution. London and Paris told a story of comparisons and contrasts. In a worldly sense, the rich enjoyed luxury while the poor suffered in despair. Identity politics and class envy pitted those who had much against those who had not. Death dropped like a guillotine. What a waste of time, talent, and treasure.

In our era, on our continent, on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019—WhiteHouse.gov reported that: “The unemployment rate is the lowest it has been since May 1969—over 50 years ago. All Americans are benefiting from the labor market’s continued improvement.” Many of us blessed the cup of blessing for the bull market.

Just six months later, on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020—Politico.com reported the opposite from the Labor Department: “Unemployment claims soared to a record-smashing 6.6 million last week, more than double the previous week, and signaling more economic pain from the coronavirus pandemic. The rush to

claim unemployment benefits occurred as the number of people testing positive for the coronavirus rose above 200,000 .... Residents in 37 states (*are*) now ordered to stay at home. The total job losses in just two weeks — almost 10 million Americans — amounts to a staggering, sudden blow to American workers never seen before in the U.S. economy.” What a bear! Many cursed the cup of woe. What a waste of time, talent, and treasure.

Ours is not the first tale of feast and famine. In God’s Genesis, Moses records how Joseph, the son of Jacob, was imprisoned. Joseph seemed to be forgotten. Morning by morning Joseph awakened and was weary. Then the Lord remembered Joseph, and, he was called out of the dungeon. He came out of the darkness to relieve Pharaoh of the royal insomnia. Joseph interpreted the nagging dreams. The skinny cows, representing seven years of famine, swallowed the fat cows, representing seven years of plenty. But, Egypt was ready; for, Pharaoh set Joseph over the preparation of the storehouses (*Genesis 41*). Joseph became Pharaoh’s right hand man, and the salvation history in Christ rolled on through time. The people of Joseph were in the king’s land and they grew; but, over time they were again forgotten. Enslaved, they suffered 400 years of death in Egypt. Their blood was poured out under the pyramids. What a waste.

Then the Lord remembered. Moses was drawn out of the River to deliver the Word. The Word would deliver the people. An Exodus was followed by an entrance into the Promised Land. The Lord gave judges. The people wanted kings. And so, from this Promised Land, would come another exile in which Isaiah would prophesy yet again the suffering of God’s Servant for our sake.

Time and time again, the servants of God would suffer rejection and persecution, they would suffer prison and sword, and they would suffer pestilence and natural disaster. Does God not care about the waste of resources? Does God not care about our lives?

In our Gospel today, the High Priest Caiaphas planned the death of God’s own Son. God would sacrifice the one, in order to save the many. In John’s Gospel (*11:50*) Caiaphas prophesied, “It is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” Here we see that

God does care. How so you ask? God's sent forth His Son who would suffer rejection, the cross and death. One Man would indeed die for the people.

For this reason, the woman at Bethany anointed Jesus. For this One Man, she would give her last flask of perfumed ointment. The fragrant oil of burial was poured on the Head of the Christ. The One Man destined for death by Caiaphas would be anointed by the woman of Bethany.

The disciples of our Lord who gathered in the house of Simon were indignant. They saw a woman pouring costly ointment over the head of Jesus as he reclined. Murmuring, they were saying, "Why this waste?" Sell the oil and give the money to the poor. Why pour it out now? "What a Waste!" they said.

But neither Judas, nor the other disciples cared about the poor. The oil was costly, and many mouths could be fed with the revenue from the ointment. But, they were not counting mouths. And if they did, then they could quickly see that the oil money would not make a dent in the poverty of the world. Jesus said, "The poor you will always have with you." But before them was the Savior of the world. This Savior is the One whom the woman anointed. Had he been dead, Judas and the others would gladly have poured the perfume. But Christ was alive. And they could not see the coming cross.

Like her church, the woman with the alabaster flask believed in Jesus Christ. Her perfume poured on His head marked Him as her Prophet greater than Isaiah. The fragrant oil marked Him as her Priest, going between God and man. The expensive cologne marked Him as her King.

So she believed that "Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary is my Lord." This woman would say that He "has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

(*Luther's Small Catechism*). That is why the woman's story is told to this day. She has done a beautiful thing to Jesus.

Judas was outraged; but, he cared not for the poor. The poor were merely his means to a financial end. In the end, Judas threw back the 30 pieces of silver. In the end, Judas threw back his life—and sadly, his life was a waste, and his death was in vain. He could not see the Cross of Christ. And so, he hung on the wrong tree.

But the Anointed One, the Christ, hung on the right tree. He hung on your tree, on my tree. On the cross, He was cursed for you and me. He was trashed on the hill called Genenna that we might not be taken to the burn pit and trashed in hell. He paid the price, offered His life, and suffered our death. "He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (*Philippians 2:8*).

Ironically this cross was not waste. Death wronged Him. He had no sin. He alone was righteous. And the tree and the grave were right to let Him go. The woman who anointed Him for his burial knew this. By faith in Christ, her story is His story. The smell of death, is covered by the aroma of Life. For her, nothing here is wasted. And for Christ's sake her story is told to this day.

This Palm Sunday before the Passover, we remember the King who poured out His life on the Calvary's trash heap, that our lives might not be wasted. This Palm Sunday before the Passover we remember the Triumphal entry of a king greater than Pharaoh. Christ is the King greater than Caesar. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. This Sunday, we remember the people who shouted to the King, "Hosanna!" "Lord save us!" This coming Friday we will remember that these same ones shouted, "We have no king but Caesar." They shouted all the louder: "Crucify Him!"

It might seem like it is again "the best of times and the worst of times." But in Christ, the times are in His nail pierced hands. As He poured out His life for You and for me, we can see that there is no waste. The woman with the oil, even the Holy Christian Church marks the Anointed One. He is our Prophet, Priest and King. Amen.

CANTICLE: "Te Deum"

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We praise You O God, we acknowledge You to be the Lord.  
 All the earth now worships You, the Father Everlasting.  
 To You all the angels cry aloud,  
 the heavens and all the powers therein;  
 To You cherubim and seraphim continually do cry;  
 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
 Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory.  
 The glorious company of the Apostles praise You  
 The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise You;  
 The noble army of martyrs praise You;  
 The holy Church though all the world does acknowledge You;  
 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable true and only Son,  
 Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.  
 You are the King of Glory, O Christ.  
 You are the everlasting Son of the Father.  
 When You took upon Yourself to deliver man;  
 You humbled Yourself to be born of a virgin.  
 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,  
 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
 You sit at the right hand of God  
 In the glory of the Father.  
 We believe that you shall come  
 To be our judge.  
 We therefore pray You to help Your servants,  
 Whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood.  
 Make them to be numbered with Your saints  
 In glory everlasting.  
 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your heritage.  
 Govern them and lift them up forever.  
 Day by day we magnify You,  
 And we worship Your name forever and ever.  
 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin,  
 O Lord have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us,

O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.  
 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

**The Offering**—*Send your offering to God by supporting your house of worship*

### PRAYER

#### **Kyrie**

**Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy**

#### **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.

Verse: O Lord hear my prayer

**Response: And let my cry come to You.**

#### **Collects for the Day:**

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Guide our leaders to wise decisions for the promotion of our general welfare, and let all serve You faithfully in our generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your Almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Be with our defenders, law enforcement and first responders. Support them in times of strife and battle, and in times of peace keep them from all evil. Give them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and honor; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in Your mercy look on those who suffer sickness, weakness, anxiety, distress or loneliness. Grant that they may always know Your care and respect, concern and understanding. Grant them willing hearts to accept help and, as their strength waxes and wanes, increase their faith with the constant assurance of Your love through Jesus Christ, their Savior.

#### **Collect for Grace:**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all of our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **THE BENEDICAMUS**

Verse: Let us bless the Lord

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

#### **THE BENEDICTION**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and  
The love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
Be with us all.

**Amen.**

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