

April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday



Meditations: And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud
was more painful than the risk it took to blossom. —Anais Nin

First reading: Psalm 47 From Nan Merrill's Psalms for Praying

Clap your hands, people of all nations!
Acclaim the Creator with joyful songs!
Rejoice in the beauty of diversity!
The Beloved of our hearts is mighty,
reigning over all of Creation:
the lands, sea, and air.
Sing praises to the Creator!

Love Consciousness invites all people
to co-creation,
the nations to peace.
Love Consciousness is our heritage,
our birthright,
to be awakened in every soul.
Sing praises to the Beloved!

Let the Love you are sing praises
with loud acclamation;
join the cosmic dance of celebration!
Sing praises to the Creator,
Sing praises to the Beloved,
Sing praises, one and all!

Second Reading

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I’m actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

—Thomas Merton

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-10

21:1 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,

21:2 saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.

21:3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

21:4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

21:5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

21:6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;

21:7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

21:8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

21:9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

21:10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

Sermon: Pastor Frank Langholf **(Sermon concludes with this poem)**

"When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theater
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be

we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way — better
for each other
because of the worst."

Laura Kelly Fanucci

If you would like to join Emmanuel Lutheran Church on ZOOM for the 10:30 service, the link this week for the Palm Sunday service is: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/959961418>. You can view the service on Emmanuel Lutheran Facebook page approximately an hour after the live service is over. If you would rather just listen to the service on your phone at 10:30, the phone number is 1-312-626-6799, US (Chicago), the meeting ID is 959 961 418. The ZOOM sign-on information for Good Friday and Easter will be on the website by Wednesday, 4/8/20, along with the readings.