

(Begin Video Clip 1 in Commons or Narthex, wherever the sound is better.)

Pastor: Good morning everyone! And welcome to our Palm Sunday Mt. Zion-line worship video! With today being Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week, we will be doing worship a little differently this week, including some filming here at church.

Particularly in these extraordinary circumstances in which we find ourselves, there is no better time to remember the promises of hope that come from the traditions of Holy Week. So we want to provide for you some comfort of seeing the familiar sanctuary space, hearing hymns that we so closely associate with this season of the church year, and see some familiar faces of folks in our church family leading worship.

And as much as we miss being together particularly in this holy time, I want to thank you all for doing the bold and radical thing of staying at home, out of love and care for our neighbors and the health of everyone around us.

We are called to love our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, and by staying at home we are loving our neighbors in the most embodied way we can. Christ embodied love for us, embodied the grace and forgiveness which saves our lives, which we will remember in the stories and rituals of this most Holy Week. And in that spirit of love and grace, we will worship together at home, connected by the Spirit, and out of love for God and our neighbors.

One other way we can connect and love one another in our church family is to share the ways you have been doing church differently over these last few weeks. We would love to see your friendly faces with photos and videos of all the ways you've been living out your call to love your neighbors and be the church in new ways. Whether that's worshipping at home with some rituals, dwelling in the Word, watching Sunday School at Home together, making cards for folks at CCH, whatever you're doing, we would love to see it and highlight your ministry in an upcoming video feature! So please send your photos and videos to me at pastor@mtzionhudson.com or our secretary Anna at

secretary@mtzionhudson.com . Also, keep an eye out for this week's Weekly Word email where we will have some great Easter resources for kids and families, including some creative projects! We would especially love to see what you all create in anticipation of the light and hope of Easter morning.

So with that, I invite you all to center your hearts and minds for worship as we begin with a music meditation for Palm Sunday.

(End Video Clip 1.)

(Begin Video Clip 2.)

This is a video progression of palms and cloaks from hallway into Sanctuary. End shot and linger on the cross with palms for as long as needed.

2 options for music with this meditation:

1. We play the choral piece "God So Loved the World" which Deb F. sent me (thank you, Deb!!). It's in a minor key and beautiful - lasts 2:47. We just film the procession with no background sound, with the choral piece to be played in the background for the final video.
2. We play a hymn live from the sanctuary as the procession happens. As I mentioned in the text message, the two hymns recommended by the ELCA are "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" (which would be very appropriate here) and "O Sacred Head Now Wounded".

(Once the music and procession is done, this is the end of Video Clip 2.)

(Begin Video Clip 3. Pastor is in the pulpit at this time. Hold the camera on Pastor for this portion.)

Pastor: Let us pray. O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Today we will be focusing on the bible stories that tell us the journey of Holy Week. We will begin with the Palm Sunday text, sing a song, and move into the Passion story. The Passion story will be read by members of our congregation, broken into narrator and dialogue pieces, not with specific parts assigned, but as one people of God speaking to the people of God. All people played a role in Christ's passion, and we all are saved by his death and resurrection as well.

We will begin with the Palm Sunday Gospel, according to Matthew.

Group: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor: When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And they will be sent immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

*"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."*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches

*from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!”
When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”*

The gospel of the Lord.

Group: Praise to you, O Christ.

(End Video Clip 3.)

(Begin Video Clip 4. The camera is steady on the four readers, at their microphone stations.)

The four readers read through “The Passion According to Matthew” script, the PDF document I attached to the email.

(Once the Passion is done, end Video Clip 4.)

(Begin Video Clip 5. The camera is on the piano and vocalist(s). This would be a great time to sing “O Sacred Head Now Wounded”.)

(End Video Clip 5.)

(Begin Video Clip 6. Focus is on Pastor, standing solo in front of the palm-decorated cross.)

Pastor: In our separate homes but gathered together in the Spirit, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, and all in need, responding to each petition with “hear our prayer”.

O triune God, God of majesty, mercy and might, hear and heed our fervent prayers:

for the church around the world, that the faithful be nourished by your presence in the word;

for pastors and bishops, that they be strengthened for their tasks of ministry;

for all those who are assisting the digital sharing of worship materials;

for guidance in keeping this Holy Week in devout prayer and praise;

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our distraught world facing the coronavirus;

for countries hardest hit, especially China, Italy, Spain, and the United States;

for those who grieve their dead;

for the sick and their families;

for those fearful of an unknown future;

for the millions of unemployed;

for children at home, that they be safe from abuse;

for those who have been led to rely on empty remedies;

for hospitals, in their desperate need for supplies;

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our healer, we pray for those whose needs we know, for those whose needs are hidden;

for those with prior illnesses whose treatments are now postponed;

for all who today will die;

for those who are homeless;

for all who are sick;

especially for those we name here;

Steve and Gloria, Karen, Neal, Lon, Caitlyn, Judi, George, Walt, Rich, Ole, Pam, Vera, Jim, Becky, Stacy, Nickki, Emily, Dianna, Judy, Dodie, Rebecca, Terry, Chad, Mark and Marge, Sandy, Barb, Laura, and Gwen. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*God our strength, we pray to you with thanks for the technology by which we stay connected;
with thanks for enough food;
with thanks for the support of our community of faith;
with thanks for the saints who struggled through life and died in you, especially those Christian artists whose work has enriched our faith, we praise your salvation now and unto our end.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy and peace. Through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Now as one people of God in Christ Jesus, let us join together and pray the words Jesus taught us in 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.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, may the Lord bless you and keep you, may God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with favor, and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.