

New Hope Lutheran Church

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April 10, 2022
Palm Sunday

Coming Events

Apr 12 1:30 Finnish Bible Study **Impola Room**

Apr 13 10 - 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St**

Maundy Thursday

Apr 14 2:00 Finnish Service **Voima**
7:00 English Service **Regent St**
(joint with Trinity)

Good Friday

Apr 15 10:00 Finnish Service **Voima**
2:00 English Service **Regent St**

Apr 16 8pm Easter Vigil at Anglican Church of the Epiphany, 85 Larch St. Pastor Charlie is preaching at this service.

Apr 17 10:00 Finnish Worship † **Voima Hall**
2:00 English Worship † **Regent St**

In our prayers Ruth, Marilyn.

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord, and with their lives praise him as Savior, we pray in the name of he who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalms 31:9 – 16

⁹ Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.
¹⁰ My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction,^[a] and my bones grow weak.
¹¹ Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors and an object of dread to my closest friends—those who see me on the street flee from me.
¹² I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.
¹³ For I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side!” They conspire against me and plot to take my life.
¹⁴ But I trust in you, Lord; I say, “You are my God.”
¹⁵ My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.
¹⁶ Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unflinching love.

First Reading “Isaiah 50:4 – 9a”

4 The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. **5** The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. **6** I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. **7** Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. **8** He who vindicates me is near.

Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! **9** It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me?

Second Reading “Phillippians 2:5 – 11 ”

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; **7** rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! **9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel “John 19:28 – 40 ”

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They replied, “The Lord needs it.” They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had

seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."
*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon

*By Rev. Charles Nolting
"Calling Jesus Name"*

Upon his entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus was hailed as the long-awaited Messiah, the one who was God's Anointed, destined to restore the kingdom of Israel to one of justice, might, and peace. And so, as we heard in our gospel, the people cried out to him their hails of praise, and named Jesus Messiah, as he rode into Jerusalem.

And for the first time in Luke's gospel, Jesus allowed himself to be publicly recognized. Before this, he commanded silence regarding his identity, silencing the demons he'd exorcised, and even insisting that his disciples keep silent about him after Peter correctly identified him as the Messiah. Throughout his ministry, Jesus never denied that he was the Christ, but he never wanted that information to be made public.

But when it came time for him to enter Jerusalem, it seems like he was ready to be known. He even named himself when he sent two of his disciples to get the colt, instructing them to tell anyone who asked that it was 'the Lord' who needed it. Never before in Luke's gospel had Jesus allowed himself to be known publicly as 'the Lord', but as he prepared to enter Jerusalem, he prepared to claim that title, and everything that went along with it.

And it seems like the crowds responded appropriately, honoring him with their hails. And with their honor and praise and confidence, they called him names: Lord,

Messiah, Christ, King. The publicity over this event was astounding. No more would Jesus attempt to hide his identity.

The odd thing for us today is that we followers of Christ have, in general, reverted back to Jesus' earlier teachings in Luke; that of keeping silent about his identity. Who Jesus is, and what Jesus is about, appears to almost be a secret these days. We tend to not speak about Jesus outside the walls of our worship spaces, and I wonder why we might behave in such a way.

One reason might be that we are afraid of offending someone; which may not be that great a reason when you consider that Jesus said that those who do not recognize him on earth will not be recognized by him in heaven. Another consideration is that Jesus offers so much to people that we should wonder why others might be offended. Do we keep silent for the sake of others, or for the sake of what others might think of us?

Yet another reason we might keep Jesus a secret is that we are not very familiar with all the ways we can call out Jesus' name. We don't have to speak Jesus name aloud in order to recognize Jesus as Lord. It's quite surprising what message we can send with our actions. By going above and beyond in assisting others to live a fuller life, are we not proclaiming Jesus in some way? Following Jesus' concern for others – and acting on those concerns - is another way to proclaim Jesus name.

On this Palm Sunday, as we remember the crowds who shouted out praise to Jesus through a variety of names, we are also reminded that we too have the ability to shout out Jesus name both in word and deed. May our words and deeds praise God, for all that God has done for us. Amen.

Prayers

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church, called to follow Jesus in the way of the cross. Make us unflinching servants of the gospel. Deliver us from hardship as we confront the forces of injustice and practice radical compassion. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the earth and all its inhabitants, created in love: Train us to recognize your divine goodness in the world around us. Rouse in us a reverence for creation, that we take greater care of its resources. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those in positions of authority called to lead with integrity and compassion: Supply them with courage and vulnerability when challenged with new ideas. Deliver them from fear that limits imagination and impedes justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those who suffer, waiting expectantly for mercy and consolation: Accompany those who feel abandoned or betrayed, defend those who are wrongly accused, and embrace those who are incarcerated or detained. Heal those who are ill. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For Christians around the world, preparing this week to journey with Jesus to the cross: Reveal to us once again the earthshaking power of humble service, unmerited forgiveness, and sacrificial love. Lead us all from death to life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We remember those who have died, who were commended into your hands. Remember us when you come into your kingdom, and prepare a place for each of us with you in paradise. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**