A person riding a donkey

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*Palm Sunday, March 28, 2024*

Greeting

Call to Worship:

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

**People: God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Let all the people say,

**People:** **God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made,

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,

**People: May we bless one another, and our God, in this time of worship.**

**Worship Music Jesus Messiah**

OPENING PRAYER

Hosanna! Blessed is Jesus who comes in God’s Name! We stand at the gates of our Jerusalem and wave our branches high. We get caught up in the excitement of the parade. Jesus sits astride a donkey, a beast of burden bearing a most precious gift. Let the joy fill your hearts this day as we shout our Hosannas. Praise God for the wondrous ways in which our lives have been touched. Prepare our hearts to worship and celebrate this day! **AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN All Glory, Laud, and Honor #280

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Diana Hoffert

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 118: 25-29 NLT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

CHOIR ANTHEM Blessed is the King

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

The laying down of palm branches in the street is an expression of the hope of God among a desperate people. Today we are invited to lay down our treasure as an outpouring of our gratitude for God’s act of salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us give with shouts of hosanna on our lips.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of the great shouts of hope, just as you received the voices of the crowd upon your entry into Jerusalem, receive these gifts as an expression of our joy and gratitude. Take our voices and our offerings and use them to proclaim your salvation to all people. Amen and Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 11: 1-11; 14: 3-9 NLT

HYMN OF PREPARATION Tell Me the Stories of Jesus #277

SERMON Unlikely Savior Pastor Lyle

\*CLOSING HYMN Hosanna, Loud Hosanna #278

BENEDICTION

People of God, sing with shouts of joy. For Jesus has not only entered the city of Jerusalem, but into the hearts of those who are willing to walk in his ways. Go forth not in fear, but in the courage and hope of God our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit our Liberator. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Prayer List:**

Amber – breast cancer Faye Miller - immunotherapy

Jim Adams – recovering at home Nash – leukemia (home)

Julie Baechley – Covid Art Pannebecker – heart issues

Margaret Bollinger – stroke, aneurysm People in Israel, Gaza and Ukraine

Phyllis Busey – Ephrata Manor Mr. Quinn – co-worker of Mary Zeller

Carol Collemacine- sprained ankle Michael Royer – recovering from fall

Michelle Daniels - chemotherapy Connie Rupp – hospice care at Fairmont

Harry DeKolf – not doing well Dr. Bill Schlorff – cancer doing well

Donna – cancer treatable Sharon - brain

Ed Finefrock – appointments Linda Slafkovski – metastatic cancer

Janet Fisher – recovering from fall Dawn Smith – stage 4 cancer

Sherry Gregory – stroke Greg and Sue Steininger – difficult time

Cindy Haines – at home not doing well Roy Weik – Health Center Cornwall

Mary Jenks – Cancer surgery Alex Wenger- leukemia

Jeff Keith- recovering at home

**SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING**

**OFFERING AMT NEEDED EACH WEEK       $1,400**

**OFFERING March 17th $1,058**

**AMT OF OFFERING NEEDED TO     $15,600**

**AMT RECEIVED TO DATE         $24,816**

**BUDGET YTD +$9216 Attendance – 39 Folks**

**What’s happening at Wiest:**

The Chosen – video series – 1030 Sunday after church

Bible Study – Tuesdays 1000-1200.

Choir Practice – Thursdays 1200 PM

Girl Scouts – 2nd Thursday of each month

Blessings of Hope – Saturday March 23rd 1030-1100

Community Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday March 30th 2PM Schoeneck Park

Game Day – Thursday April 11th and April 25th 130-330 PM.

Pastor Lyle and Cheryl will be on vacation out of the country from April 1st through April 21st. Pastor Glenda Machia from Mt Zion-in Akron will provide pastoral coverage during this time. Her telephone number is 717-468-4920.

Audio of the Sunday message is posted on our church website ([www.wiestchurch.org](http://www.wiestchurch.org)). Video on Wiest Church Facebook page

Lectionary Readings for next week: Sunday – Mark 11:1-11, 14:3-9

Monday – Deuteronomy 15:7-11 Thursday – Mark 14:32-42

Tuesday – Mark 14:10-21 Friday – Mark 15:16-39

Wednesday – Mark 14: 22-31 Saturday – Mark 15:40-47

Sermon Summary

Unlikely Savior

We backtrack this week, before going forward in Mark’s Gospel. Jesu has healed the blind beggar Bartimaeus, who follows him. As Jesus and the disciples approach Jerusalem, they pass through the villages of Bethpage and Bethany on their way to the Mount of Olives.

The Mount has kingdom significance. In Zechariah 14, it is the place where God will fight against the nations. In Mark it becomes the place where Jesus will be seen as the one who will fight oppression. But he seems an *Unlikely Savior.*

Jesus is going to Jerusalem to observe Passover, which commemorates God’s rescue of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He tells his disciples to go into the village and bring him a colt of a donkey, hardly a kingly vehicle. This is predicted in Zechariah 0. The disciples go and get the donkey without resistance.

People put their clothes and branches cut from the fields in his path. This is a sign of honor. The people want a warrior king to free them. Jeus is a king who will offer them freedom from sin and death; far more than they anticipated.

Sermon Quiz

1. Jesus and his followers come from the west to observe Passover in Jerusalem.
2. Passover recalls God’s deliverance of the people from enslavement in Egypt.
3. Jesus will offer a different kind of deliverance than what the people hoped for.
4. The people shouted Hosanna and quoted from Psalm 118.
5. The people laid clothing and leafy branches on the road.
6. Hosanna means save us, save us now.
7. The people thought Jesus would be the warrior king who would save them.
8. Jesus confronted authority, but in a non-violent manner.
9. He went into the Temple and looked around.
10. Jesus left the city and returned to Bethany.

Last Week’s Quiz

1. Jesus told his disciples that the Temple would be destroyed.
2. Afterward, Jesus and the disciples went to the Mount of Olives.
3. Peter, James, John and Andrew asked for a sign that fulfillment would occur.
4. Jesus warned them that many would come claiming to be the Messiah.
5. Jesus said that wars, earthquakes and famines would be the first of the birth pains.
6. Jesus says that afterward creation itself will be changed when the Son of Man comes on the clouds.
7. These birth pains are the beginning of something new.
8. Jesus preached not to give into the violence called for by others.
9. He came to gather the chosen people, the elect, together.
10. Jesus called the people to produce good fruit and stay alert.