

March 29- Palm Sunday

Special Music: PRC Bells

Children's Message: Judie Campbell, Nolin Moreno, and Minda Thompson

Prelude

Welcome (ask congregation to sit)

Call to Worship

Pastor: Honor. Honor and praise.

Judie: Honor, praise, and glory.

Nolin: Honor, praise, and glory are yours

Pastor: Almighty God, now and forever.

All: In celebration, we join the crowds of old,

Judie: Yet, our celebration is bittersweet, for our story doesn't end here.

Nolin: We know the pain of what lies ahead.

All: Today anticipates the rest of the story---

Pastor: A story of betrayal and death, but ending with a story of hope and resurrection.

Song: #297- Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (stay seated while the students wave palm branches)

"Hosanna, loud hosanna,"

The little children sang;

Thro' 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.

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.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heav'n, our King;

O may we ever praise Him
with heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice!

Children's Message: "Sunday Munchies"-done by Judie Campbell, Nolin Moreno, and Minda Thompson

Song: #301- We Will Glorify (please stand)

We will glorify the King of kings;
We will glorify the Lamb.
We will glorify the Lord of lords,
Who is the great I am.

Hallelujah to the King of kings;
Hallelujah to the Lamb.
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords,
Who is the great I am.

Hallelujah to the King of kings;
Hallelujah to the Lamb.
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords,
Who is the great I am.

Announcements

Special Music: All Glory, Laud, and Honor- played by the PRC Bells

Congregational Prayer

Song: #407- God Has Spoken By His Prophets

God has spoken by His prophets,
Spoken His unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.

In the world's despair and turmoil

One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is King, His throne eternal,
God the First and God the Last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory,
With the Father ever one;

Spoken by the Word incarnate,
God of God, ere time was born;
Light of Light, to earth descending,
Christ as God in human form.

God is speaking by His Spirit,
Speaking to our hearts again;
In the ageless Word expounding
God's own message, now as then.

Tho' the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith yet standing fast:
God abides, His Word unchanging,
God the First and God the Last.

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song- O How He Loves You and Me

Offering Prayer

Scripture

Jonah 1: 11-17

¹¹The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"

¹²"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

¹³Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. ¹⁴Then they cried out to the Lord, "Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased." ¹⁵Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

¹⁷Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2:10- 3:5

¹⁰And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

Matthew 12: 38-41

³⁸Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

³⁹He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here.

Message

Easter Egg intro

Review what Easter Eggs are

Example-Xs in The Departed (even doing this is a reference to the original Scarface-not that one) whenever a character is about to die

We are looking for Easter Eggs in stories from the Old Testament

Specifically Easter Eggs that point us to the stories of Jesus that we’ll be celebrating in this coming week

Today’s story is the story of Jonah

Quick background so we’re all on the same page

Jonah was a prophet of God in OT

God sent Jonah a message to go to Nineveh and tell them to repent of all the evil they’ve been doing

Nineveh was an enemy of Jonah’s people and had been for a long time

In fact, lots of prophets got messages of doom and condemnation for Nineveh

But Jonah knew that God was sending this message so that the people there would repent and be spared from God’s wrath

So Jonah hopped on a boat heading as far the other way as possible

Jonah 1:11-17

He spends 3 days praying the belly of the fish

2:10-3:5

Jonah then proceeds to throw a fit (not too strong or childish a description) and get angry at God for forgiving them

Three themes we see in Jonah (Easter Eggs) for us to tie together this morning

1. Palm Sunday

Victory over enemies vs. sacrifice for them, welcoming them in

Jonah wanted victory over Nineveh, they were the enemy, did not want them saved from God's wrath

Palm Sunday crowds wanted a victory over Rome, they were the enemy, defeat them and become powerful ourselves

Jesus was not supposed to die, not supposed to be a sacrifice, not supposed to be for everyone (Gentiles, Romans, etc)

The same internal struggle that Jonah had with what God was about to do was about to repeat itself with the very crowds excited to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem

They would not approve of what God's plan was going to be

2. 3 days dead

Most obvious parallel from Jonah to Jesus was one that Jesus Himself pointed out to people ahead of time

Matthew 12:38-41

Jonah was 3 days in the fish and Jesus was 3 days in the tomb

For 3 days, there were questions about God's plan

For those around Jonah, the assumption was that his story was over
Even Jonah probably expected that this would be it for him

What would it have meant for Nineveh if that was the end of the story?

But God wasn't done with either Jonah or Nineveh yet

3 long days later, he gets vomited up on shore and told to get back to work

Jesus has been telling people all along that He's going to die and come back

Matthew 12 is just one example of that

But either they never hear Him or they just can't understand what He's talking about

Because everyone seems shocked when He dies and has no idea that He would come back in 3 days

The thought here too was that God's plan had failed

Jesus, who we thought was the Messiah, who we hoped would save us, is dead

End of story

Now, if you've been around church for a bit, you know that isn't how Jesus' story ends

And the same for Jonah

Jonah was back, miraculously, 3 days later

Jesus gives that as the sign that people are asking for

"Watch what happens when you put me in the tomb and assume everything is over"

3. How message is received

Jesus also highlights the importance of how the messages that He and Jonah bring are received

How do people respond to their returns from the dead?

Jonah emerged from the fish and there was repentance, forgiveness, and life in Nineveh

Pretty much everyone repented and worshiped God after hearing Jonah's lackluster message

A number of people witnessed Jesus and believed

They had eye witnesses to His death, very public, at the hands of very capable executioners

There were also hundreds of eye witnesses to Him being alive again after 3 days (more from this passage on Easter)

But, just as He predicted, many still did not believe even after this most incredible of miracles

Many still hear the stories and it has no meaningful impact on their lives

How will we respond this week?

When we remember that Jesus died?

When we celebrate that He came back?

Do we just hear the stories without any noticeable difference

Or do we respond the way they did in Nineveh, the way the centurion who witnessed Jesus' death responded?

Acknowledging that something amazing and supernatural has happened

Giving our lives to follow the God who is able to do the impossible

Song: #300- All Glory, Laud and Honor

All glory, laud and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son.
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and Blessed One.

The company of angels
Are praising Thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before Thee we present.

To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the praise we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.

Benediction

Postlude