

Easter program March 31

Prelude

Opening song --- Cornerstone

announcements

(kids walk on to the platform from side announcing Jesus is coming...

kids come in from back shouting Hosannah and sit on steps, sing with congregation...

picture of Jesus riding donkey goes up)

Hosannah in the Highest

Hosannah loud Hosanna

narration....

“It was on the first day of the week that Christ made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Multitudes who had flocked to see him in Bethany now accompanied Him, eager to witness his reception. Many people were on their way to the city to keep the passover, and these joined the multitude attending Jesus. All nature seemed to rejoice. the trees were clothed with verdure, and their blossoms shed a delicate fragrance on the air. the hope of the new kingdom was again springing up...from the multitudes gathered to attend the Passover, thousands go forth to welcome Jesus. The priests at the temple sound the trumpet (trumpet sounds) for evening service, but there are few to respond, and the rulers say to one another in alarm, pharisee---(Eric) to Larry and they shake their heads

“Look, now the whole world is gone after him!”

Narrator,

never before in his earthly life had Jesus permitted such a demonstration. He clearly foresaw the result. It would bring him to the cross, but it was his purpose to present himself as the Redeemer. The Savior might have appeared escorted by heavenly angels and heralded by the trump of God, but He remained true to the humble lot He had accepted, the burden He must bear until His life was given for the life of the world.

yet this was a triumphal procession like none other, led by the blind he had restored to sight, and the cripples bounding with joy, accompanied by loud hosannas sung by the dumb whose tongues

he had freed... the risen Lazarus led the donkey on which Jesus rode. but not all were happy. the pharisees burned with envy and malice.

Saducee---Larry

“Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

Jesus---- (off stage)

“I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

narrator---

As the silenced pharisees drew back, the words of Zechariah were taken up by hundreds of voices...

Congregation---

**Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem:
behold your King is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation;
humble and riding on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zec. 9:9**

[kids can say Hosannah again]

narrator ---

When the procession reached the top of the hill, Jesus halted, and all the multitude with him. before them lay Jerusalem in its glory, now bathed in light. all eyes were directed to the temple. It had long been the pride and glory of the jewish nation. It had the appearance of a massive structure of snow set with golden pinnacles and caught the splendor of the setting sun, shining as if with a glory borrowed from heaven. Jesus gazes upon the scene and the vast multitude hush their shouts. all eyes turn to the Saviour, expecting to see the admiration they themselves feel, but instead they behold a cloud of sorrow. they are surprised and disappointed to see his eyes fill with tears and his body rock with anguish. Jesus raised his hand and in deep sadness exclaimed

Jesus---(off stage)

“Oh Jerusalem, if you had only known on this day what would bring you peace —but now it is hidden from your eyes.”

Narrator

The glorious destiny that might have blessed Jerusalem had she accepted her Redeemer rose before the Son of God. she might have been healed of her disease, liberated from bondage and established as a metropolis from which the dove of peace could go to all the nations.

How are we like Jerusalem of old? do we have a modern day temples that is keep us from reaching people outside our race, religion and culture?

narrator

Yet again the spirit of God speaks to Jerusalem. Before the day is done more testimony is borne to Christ. the prophetic scriptures are proclaimed, If Jerusalem will hear, she may yet be saved...

narrator: the rulers intercept the crowd

pharisees--- Eric and Larry

“Who is this?”

[the disciples answer this question as they are filled with the spirit of inspiration from prophetic scripture.]

others from the congregation----

Adam will tell you, “It is the seed of the woman that will bruise the serpent’s head.”

Ask Abraham he will tell you, “It is Melchizedek king of Salem.”

Jacob, will tell you, “He is Shiloh of the tribe of Judah.”

Isaiah will tell you, “Immanuel, wonderful, counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the prince of peace.”

Jeremiah will tell you, “The branch of David, the Lord our Righteousness.”

Daniel will tell you, “He is the Messiah.”

Hosea will tell you, “He is the Lord God of Hosts.”

John the Baptist will tell you, “He is the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.”

The great Jehovah has proclaimed from His Throne, “This is My beloved Son.”

We his disciples declare, “This is Jesus, the Messiah, the Prince of Life, The Redeemer of the world.”

and

We the congregation agree, Jesus is King of heaven and earth

narrator---

At the beginning of His ministry Jesus had cleansed the temple, now at the close of His mission He enters the temple once again and finds it worse than before. the outer court of the temple was like a vast cattle yard. the cries of the animals mixed with the clinking of coins and the angry words between traffickers. the dignitaries of the temple were themselves engaged in this greed of gain.

money changers---and pharisees---

doves for sale here

lowest price for sheep over here

get your evening sacrifice here, etc.

We can offer you a better deal than anyone else...

Jesus---

looks around with piercing gaze, and everyone goes silent

It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.

take these things out!!!

pharisees and saducees and money changers flee down center aisle and are met by mothers bringing their children to be healed.

they ask Jesus to heal their children. (Sanna and mothers with their children)

Peter, James and John,

Jesus is too busy. He does not have time for children. Come back another day

Jesus---

“Let the little children come to me.”

Kids sing “He’s able

Kids say hosanna!

pharisees and saducees come up again---

Larry, **“by what Authority do you do these things?”** Eric, **Who gave you this authority?**

Jesus---

“I will also ask you a question. Tell me: John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or was it of human origin?”

narrator

The priests saw that they were trapped, If they said it was of God, then why had they not believed on Jesus? John had testified that Christ was the lamb of God. If they declared it was of men, they would bring on themselves a storm of indignation from the people who believed John to be a prophet...

priests---Larry and Eric look at each other and one says,
We don’t know where it was from.”

Jesus---

Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

Now I have a story to tell you.

A certain man had 2 sons; and he came to the first and said, Son, go work in my vineyard. His son said, “I will not” : but afterward he repented and went. and he came to his second son and said the same thing. and his second son said, “I go sir”: but didn't go after all. which of them did the will of His father?

sauce, Larry--- **the first son**

Jesus---

I tell you that publicans and sinners will go to heaven before you, because John came and taught you in the way of righteousness, and you believed him not, but publicans and sinners believed him.

kids sing, I just wanna be a sheep,, don’t wanna be a pharisee or saducee

narrator--

then Jesus told them the parable of the vineyard that was let out to the wicked husbandmen that destroyed all the servants sent from the master and even at last destroyed the master’s own son. The master had to come and destroy the husbandmen and give the vineyard to others. The pharisees perceived that Jesus was talking about them and from that time on sought to destroy

him. they tried again to trap Him.

pharisee---Eric

Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

Jesus--

Why are you tempting me?

Show me a penny. Whose image and name is on it?

pharisee---Eric

Well Caesar's of course

Jesus---

give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and give unto God the things that are God's.

narrator

and they were amazed at his answer and held their peace.

Jesus continued teaching in the temple telling stories and answering questions. He also observed things happening in the temple.

[A rich man walks by and puts a large amount of money in the treasury with a large clinking sound, then a poor widow comes up quietly and drops in 2 pennys.]

Jesus---

I am telling you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all of these people, for they have given of their wealth, but she has given all that she had.

narrator---

Tears of joy filled her eyes as she felt that her act was understood and appreciated. Many would have advised her to keep her pittance for her own use; given in to the hands of the well fed priests, it would be lost sight of among the many costly gifts brought to the treasury. but Jesus understood her motive. She did what she could, and her act was to be a monument to her unselfishness. the influence of that unselfish gift has been like a stream small in beginning, but widening and deepening as it flowed down through the ages. You are invited to give your own offering now while we sing Give Thanks as a congregation. the children can return to their seats. On their way, they can pick up a cross that is a piece of scratch art they can create while listening

to the rest of the program.

offering Give thanks with a grateful heart

children go back to their seats

Narrator---

Jesus continued teaching in the temple. His final week was filled with ministry. He talked with His listeners about the last days and the signs of his second coming. He warned them not to be overcome with the excesses of life, or the cares of this life so that this day would come upon us unawares. He said,

Jesus--- off stage

Watch and pray always that you can be counted worthy to stand before the Son of man.

The people were so anxious to hear him that they came early in the morning to find him. the Priests and scribes were jealous and began seeking to lay hands on him and kill him.

The scenes of His final earthly days were about to begin. the famous scenes of the passover that we celebrated last night passed by with unforgettable meaning for the disciples that were present.

Peter speaks for us all when he says, (off stage)

“Lord wash not only my feet but my heart also”

If only the scenes that followed could be replayed in a different way. Many people might do things differently if they had it to live over again including Peter, James, John and the other disciples...

Jesus turns to His father in the garden of Gethsemane and pours out his grief and fears alone, yearning for some human support, but three times His disciples fall asleep after He has asked for support. At last from His pale lips comes the bitter cry,

Jesus--- off stage

“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me, Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

Christ is strengthened by the mighty angel sent from the throne of God. His disciples are awakened by the light surrounding Jesus and they see the angel bent over Jesus form and hear his

voice speaking words of comfort. their fear for Jesus is gone, yet they fall asleep again. then Jesus says,

Jesus: Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold the hour is at hand and the son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Judas the betrayer kisses the master, the mob surges forward. Peter's own words to the Master ring in his ears,

Peter--(off stage)

“Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and even to death!”

and Peter making good on his promise, draws his sword and cuts off the high priest's servant's ear. Jesus----(off stage)

“Let this happen, Put away your sword, for all those that take up the sword will die by the sword. Do you not believe that I could pray to my Father and He would send me 12 legions of angels.”

What would Peter have done if he had prayed with Jesus instead of sleeping? Only God knows the answer to that question. As he stumbles on in his blindness and fear for himself and the others he proposes that they all flee and save themselves. Jesus had predicted all this.

(Picture of trial is put up)

Over the brook Kedron, past gardens and olive groves and through the hushed streets of the sleeping city, they hurried Jesus. His preliminary pretense of a trial was conducted by none other than the crafty Annas. In vain did He try to trap Jesus to testify against himself, failing in this, he ordered Jesus to be taken to Caiaphas. As Caiaphas looked upon Him, he was struck with admiration for His noble and dignified bearing. Even he felt conviction that this Man was akin to God. The next instant he scornfully banished the thought. Jesus held his peace as abuse was heaped upon him by false witnesses, but when Caiaphas adjured him by the living God to testify whether He was God, He could not remain silent.

Jesus---(off stage)

“You have said correctly. and hereafter you shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven.”

As He spoke divinity flashed through Him. The High priest quailed before His penetrating gaze. For a moment he felt as if He was standing before the Eternal judge...then turned away in determined resistance and rent his robes. Well might the high priest rend his robes in horror for himself and the nation. Mercy and justice were trampled upon. Never was a criminal treated as cruelly as was Jesus, but a keener anguish rent the heart of Jesus, and this was the denial of Christ by one of his own disciples.

Servant of Caiaphas---

Aren't you one of this man's disciples?

Peter---off stage

Woman, I know Him not!!! I do not know the man! I tell you, I do not know Him!!!

and the cock crowed, and Jesus caught Peter's eye with a look of deep pity and sorrow...

he recalled Jesus words---(off stage)

Simon, Look, Satan desires to have you... but I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail...

Peter rushed from the hall back to Gethsemane where Jesus had poured out His heart.

It was in sleeping when Jesus bade him watch and pray that Peter had prepared the way for his great sin.

So it is with everyone of us here, Satan desires to have us, but Jesus has prayed for each of us and He will lead us to watch and pray, so that we do not have to rewrite the story. Victory in Jesus can be ours as we walk with Him.

thought question---

What might we have gained by watching and praying?

(Picture of Jesus with crown of thorns is put up)

Jesus Trial continues as He is passed from Pilate to Herod and back to Pilate again, and at last cruelly condemned to die. The warnings God sent to Pilate through his wife were rejected. Pilate yielded to the mob in order to retain his worldly honor. Do we ever abandon our duty in order to escape loss and suffering? and yet Jesus continually looks on us with love and tenderness, calling us to a better way.

Jesus was led from the judgement hall to the place called Calvary. On the way he staggered and fell under the weight of the cross. Simon the Cyrenian was given the honor of carrying the cross that day, and this act led him to believe on Jesus.

Today Jesus calls us to the foot of the cross. He says,
Jesus----(off stage)

“I if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me.

congregational Hymn, Near the cross

during the first verse, Roman soldiers kneel at the cross, then the disciples, with Mary the mother of Jesus. everyone invited to come to the cross.

Pastor has a prayer.

As Jesus hung on the cross, words of forgiveness were still on His lips.

Father forgive them for they know not what they do!!! He is still reaching out...
He remembers his mother.

Jesus (off stage)

“Woman, see your son,”

and to his beloved disciple John,

See your mother!”

John and Mary stand looking at the cross.

then as the agony of the cross continues and darkness surrounds Him, He cries out,

My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?

In silence the crowd looks on. suddenly the gloom lifts from the cross and Jesus cries out,

It is finished, Into thy hands I commend my spirit.

a light encircled the cross, and the face of the Savior shone with glory, and then he bowed his head and died

Worthy worthy is the Lamb, men’s quartet.

narration---

After Jesus died, darkness settled again and then there was a violent earthquake. the sacrificial lamb in the temple escapes and the inner veil is rent in two. Christ’s sacrifice is complete. well

then, might everyone rejoice, but the portals of the tomb have not been pierced yet. Those who loved Him are now in shock and mourning. Mary, the mother of Jesus mourns the loss of her beloved Son, had she not been promised He was the Messiah?

(Mary sits on the stage with her face in her hands)

(Picture of Pieta is put up)

song sung by 3 women Pieta----

Narrator---

Jesus Body is laid in the tomb of Nicodemus. The Wily priests are afraid he may be resurrected even though some of them don't believe in resurrection. they ask for Roman soldiers to guard the tomb

(Picture of tomb placed up)

(The soldiers stand up by the picture of the tomb.)

The Sabbath is passed in mourning by Jesus followers. Jesus rests in the tomb. but on that Sunday morning, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from Heaven. The bright beams of God's glory went before him. His face was like lightening, and his clothes white as snow. the soldiers fell as dead men. Christ came forth from the tomb glorified. the Roman soldiers saw him and their eyes were riveted on Him. Over the empty tomb, Jesus, the risen Lord Proclaimed, I am the resurrection and the life.

(Picture of resurrection put up.)

Congregational song

Christ the Lord is risen today

The soldiers and rest of cast walk out during the hymn

Pastor has closing remarks.

Go Ye into all the world and preach the Gospel. all are invited to potluck where you can continue discussing the themes of the resurrection

Prelude

Welcome in Song

Welcome and Announcements

Hosannah in the Highest

Choristers, Children, and Congregation

Hosannah, Loud Hosanna

Choristers, Brass, and Congregation

Narration of Triumphal Entry

Scripture

Congregation led by Pastor Gotshall

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem:
behold your King is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation; humble
and riding on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zec. 9:9

Narration with selected congregational participants

Profession of faith

Congregation

We, the congregation agree, Jesus is King of heaven and Earth

Narration and scenes from the life of Jesus

Our Offerings

Give thanks

Narration

Near the Cross 312

Congregational hymn

Congregational prayer

Worthy is the lamb

Dan Hamstra and friends

Pieta

Kelli Miller, Lillia Moncrief, Karla Largent
and Leanne Miller

Narration

Christ the Lord is Risen today 166

Congregational Hymn

Closing Prayer

Pastor Gotshall

Accompanist; Tim Arena

Choristers; Rivera family, Leanne Miller, Dan Hamstra, Heather Arena

Cast;

Children and parents of the church

Jesus, Patrick Miller

Roman Soldiers, Kaleb Reiner, Trey Dodge, Fred Siebold, and Mateus Dutra

Pharisee, Eric Baumgartner

Saducee, Larry Dalson

Peter, James and John; John Baxter, Chad Gammon, and Rudy Marchner

Money Changers; Nolan and Evan Keyes, and Lucas Bowen

Costumes, Betty Whitehead

bible verses for the tables at potluck

John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life

John 10:10 I am come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly

John 6:37 He that comes to me I will in no way cast out

How is Christ risen in your life today?