



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Palm Sunday*

*April 2, 2023*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

Today we begin the most important holiday season for our faith—Holy Week. Like many Jews, Jesus is coming to Jerusalem to celebrate the great Passover holiday. But it will not be a normal Passover celebration for Jesus and his followers. Tomorrow he will overturn the tables of the moneychangers in the crowd-packed temple. Tuesday and Wednesday he will argue and debate with the religious scholars and leaders. By Thursday they will have had enough and have come to the conclusion that Jesus must go—by death if necessary. Thursday night Jesus shares his last supper with his most loyal 12 followers. But they will all desert him before the night is out; one of them actually betraying him. By Friday midday Jesus will have been forsaken by all, tried, beaten, mocked and nailed to a cross. Before nightfall the Savior will be dead.

*Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

# † GATHERING †

*The congregation gathers in the Fellowship Hall*

*Palm branches are distributed to every member of the congregation*

## Blessing of the Palms

P. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C. Hosanna to the Son of David!**

P. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus. Today he entered the holy city and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen**

## Processional Psalm Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

P: Give thanks, the Lord is good,  
God's love is for ever!

**C: Now let all God's people say,  
"God's love is for ever!"**

P: Open the gates of justice,  
let me praise God within them.

**C: This is the Lord's own gate,  
only the just will enter.**

P: I thank you for you answered me,  
and you became my savior.

**C: The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.**

P: This is the word of the Lord,  
how wonderful in our eyes.

**C: This is the day the Lord has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad.**

P: Lord, give us the victory!  
Lord, grant us success!

**C: Blest is the one who comes,**

**who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the Lord's house.**

P: The Lord God is our light:  
adorn the altar with branches.

**C: I will thank you, my God,  
I will praise you highly.  
Give thanks, the Lord is good,  
God's love is for ever!**

P: Let us go forth in peace,  
**C: in the name of the Lord.**

*The congregation processes into the sanctuary. After arriving in the sanctuary  
the congregation sings:*

Opening Hymn All Glory Laud and Honor  
(For music turn to Hymn 344 in the Red Hymnal)

*Refrain:* **All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**1. You are the king of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
our King and Blessed One. Refrain**

**2. The company of angels  
are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals  
in chorus make reply. Refrain**

**3. The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayers and anthems  
before you we present. Refrain**

**4. To you, before your Passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. Refrain**

**5. Their praises you accepted;  
accept the prayers we bring,**

**great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious King. Refrain**

Text: Theodulph of Orlenas, c. 760-821; tr. John M. Neake, 1818-1866, alt. Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584-1636

P. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
C. **Hosanna in the highest!**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Announcements

‡ WORD ‡

First Reading Exodus 21:28-36

B:<sup>28</sup>When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall not be liable. <sup>29</sup>If the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not restrained it, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death. <sup>30</sup>If a ransom is imposed on the owner, then the owner shall pay whatever is imposed for the redemption of the victim's life. <sup>31</sup>If it gores a boy or a girl, the owner shall be dealt with according to this same rule. <sup>32</sup>If the ox gores a male or female slave, the owner shall pay to the slaveowner thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

<sup>33</sup>If someone leaves a pit open, or digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, <sup>34</sup>the owner of the pit shall make restitution, giving money to its owner, but keeping the dead animal.

<sup>35</sup>If someone's ox hurts the ox of another, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and divide the price of it; and the dead animal they shall also divide. <sup>36</sup>But if it was known that the ox was accustomed to gore in

the past, and its owner has not restrained it, the owner shall restore ox for ox, but keep the dead animal.

*After the reading the reader may say:* The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 119:1-8

D: Happy the blameless,  
who keep the Lord's decrees,

**C: walking the path of the law,  
seeking God with all their heart.**

D: They never choose evil  
but follow God's way.

**C: Lord, you charge us  
to cherish your law.**

D: Steady me,  
that I may keep your commands.

**C: Then, without shame,  
I can reflect on your ways.**

D: I truly sing your praise,  
when I learn your justice.

**C: Hold me closely,  
I shall keep your commands.**

Second Reading Romans 12:9-21

E: <sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

<sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*After the reading the reader may say:* The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Philippians 2:8-9)

**C: Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 26:1-16

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup>and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. <sup>5</sup>But they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

<sup>6</sup>Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup>a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. <sup>8</sup>But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? <sup>9</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.” <sup>10</sup>But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>11</sup>For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup>By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. <sup>13</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

<sup>14</sup>Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day* My Faith Looks Up to Thee  
(For music turn to Hymn 759 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away,  
oh , let me from this day  
be wholly thine!**
  
2. **May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!**
  
3. **While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.**
  
4. **When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love,  
fear and distrust remove;  
oh, bear me safe above,  
a ransomed soul!**

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887. Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

*Nicene Creed*

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of  
heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally  
begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God  
from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;**

through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with:* Lord in your mercy,

*The congregation will respond:* **Hear our prayer.**

*The pastor concludes the prayer:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

✠ MEAL ✠

Special Music



Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord  
*For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of good gifts,  
**C: receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

*(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. Please pick up a communion glass as you come forward to the altar. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need a gluten free wafer please tell the assistant.) The pastor will pour wine into your glass. If you prefer grape juice, it is prefilled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:*

*Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)*

**492 Eat This Bread (Red Hymnal)**

**351 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (Red Hymnal)**

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray:

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,

empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

and touch the world with your love.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: God, the giver of love

Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth

bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Prepare the Royal Highway  
(For music turn to Hymn 264 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Prepare the royal highway;**

**The King of kings is near!**

**Let ev'ry hill and valley**

**A level road appear!**

**Then greet the King of glory,**

**Foretold in sacred story:**

*Refrain* **Hosanna to the Lord,  
For he fulfills God's Word!**

**2. God's people, see him coming:**

**Your own eternal king!**

**Palm branches strew before him!**

**Spread garments! Shout and sing!**

**God's promise will not fail you!**

**No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

**3. Then fling the gates wide open**

**To greet your promised king!**

**Your king, yet ev'ry nation**

**Its tribute too may bring.**

**All lands will bow before him;  
Their voices join your singing: *Refrain***

**4. His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kind-ness so abounding: *Refrain***

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1772-1847; Music: Swedish folk tune, 14<sup>th</sup> century

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Owen Young
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistant	Gary Boisseau
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, April 9**

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Creed White
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistant	Rob Stroup
Counters	
Coffee Hour	<i>No coffee hour</i>

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