



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Fourth Sunday in Lent

Arrival in Jerusalem – Mark 11:1-19

March 10, 2024

10:30 Service of the Word

Jerusalem was the religious center of the Jewish people. Within it stood the great temple, the house of God. While Jews believed God was everywhere the temple was God's promised dwelling place. It was to the temple that Jews turned for forgiveness of sins and for right relationship with God. We know the stories of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem and his time in the temple. Let's discover what they have to say to us today.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are a visitor 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 †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn There in God's Garden

(For music see Hymn 342 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.**
- 2. Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!"**

**There on its branches see the scars of suff'ring;
see there the tendrils of our human selfhood
feed on its life blood.**

**3. Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it
nor fire consumed it.**

**4. See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing."**

**5. This is my ending, this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for; now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.**

**6. All heav'n is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!**

Text: Kiraly Imre von Pecselyi, c.1590-c.1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982. Text copyright 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc. Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950, copyright 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Publishers, Inc.

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13, Romans 10)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

A: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

A: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. .

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Zechariah 9:9-10

B: ⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 84 (*read responsively*)

D: Your temple is my joy,

Lord of heaven's might.

I am eager for it,

eager for the courts of God.

**C: My flesh, my flesh sings
its joy to the living God.**

D: As a sparrow homing,

a swallow seeking a nest

to hatch its young,

**C: I am eager for your altars,
Lord of heaven's might,
my king, my God.**

D: To live with you is joy,

to praise you and never stop.

**C: Those you bless with courage
will bless you from their hearts.**

D: When they cross the Valley of Thirst

the ground is spaced with springs,
with the welcome rain of autumn.

**C: They travel the towns to reach
to God of gods in Zion.**

D: Hear me, Lord of might,
heed me, God of Jacob.

**C: God our shield, look,
see the face of your anointed.**

D: One day within your courts
is worth a thousand without.

**C: I would rather stand at God's gate
then move among the wicked.**

D: God is our sun, our shield,
the gift of honor and grace.
The Lord never fails to bless
those who walk with integrity.

**C: Lord of heaven's might,
blest are all who trust in you.**

Second Reading Ephesians 6:10-17

E: ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Mark 11:9b-10)

**C: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!**

Gospel Reading Mark 11:1-19

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

¹²On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴He said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it.

¹⁵Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; ¹⁶and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. ¹⁷He was teaching and saying, “Is it not written,

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’?

But you have made it a den of robbers.”

¹⁸And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole

crowd was spellbound by his teaching. ¹⁹ And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Bless Now, O God, the Journey
(For music see Hymn 326 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.**

2. **Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.**

3. **Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.**

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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.

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

open to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

✠ PRAYER ✠

Thanksgiving Prayer

P: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: we offer to you what is already your own: ourselves, our time and our possessions. Guide us so that we may use your gifts in the service of your will; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross
(For music see Hymn 335 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**

Refrain: **In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**

2. **Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain***

3. **Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scene before me;
help me walk from day to day**

with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

4. **Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. *Refrain***

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915. Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **God's work. Our hands.**

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters Sue Kaufmann and Linda Flood
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 17

Greeters and Ushers Helen Crown
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour

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