



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

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 Isaiah 50:4-9a

B: ⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment;

the moth will eat them up.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:9-16 (read together)

C: Pity me, Lord, I hurt all over;

my eyes are swollen, my heart and body ache.

Grief consumes my life, sighs fill my days;

guilt saps my strength, my bones dissolve.

Enemies mock me, make me the butt of jokes.

Neighbors scorn me,

strangers scorn me,

strangers avoid me.

Forgotten like the dead, I am a shattered jar.

I heard the crowd whisper,

“Attack on every side!”

as they scheme to take my life.

But I trust in you, Lord.

I say, “You are my God, my life is in your hands.”

Snatch me from the enemy, ruthless in their chase.

Look on me with love, save your servant.

Second Reading Galatians 6:1-10

D: [Paul writes] My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵For all must carry their own loads.

⁶Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

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 Mark 14:1-11

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; ²for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

³While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So 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!**

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 *The Holy City* F.E. Weatherly, Stephen Adams

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: Jesus, you are the bread of life,

**C: and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this
holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in
your name. 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

A: Let us pray: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

C: 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 *Where Charity and Love Prevail*
(For music see Hymn 359 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.**
- 2. With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;**

**let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.**

**3. Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.**

**4. Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.**

**5. Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.**

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt., copyright 1960 World Library Publications. Music: attr Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Emma Deibler
Communion Assistant	Linda Flood
Counters	Helen Crown and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 31

Greeters and Ushers	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Emma Deibler
Communion Assistant	Christine Campbell
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	<i>No coffee hour</i>

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