



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Palm Sunday

March 28, 2021

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!

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

† GATHERING †

Welcome and Announcements

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!**

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***

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

‡ 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 Go to Dark Gethsemane
(For music see Hymn 347 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

2. **Follow to the judgment hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.**

3. **Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

4. **Early hasten to the tomb
where they laid his breathless clay;
all is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris'n!
He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854. Music: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

E: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

E: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away;

behold, everything has become new!

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

† PRAYER †

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. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

A: We give thanks for this Holy Week;

with thanks for the support of our community of faith;

with thanks for the saints who struggled through life and died in you;

we praise your salvation now and unto our end. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: We ask that all people may know they are worthwhile and that they are loved by you. Guide us to spread that good news. Be with our missionaries, the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff in Rochester and the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

E: We pray for those who struggle with their faith and who struggle to believe in you. Give them a clear sense of your presence and guide them through their doubts. Lord in your mercy...

C: 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

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

C: And also with you.

A: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with messages of Christ's peace.

Special Music

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: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

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*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Announcements

Office Hours

Pastor Jon anticipates being in the office:

Wednesday –morning and afternoon

Thursday - morning

He can be available other times by appointment. Please call the church:
(585) 924-5192 or pastor's cell: (585) 281-3595

Church Playground – Girl Scout Gold Project Can & Bottle Collection

Kelsey Sackett is working to replace the church playground for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Please consider donating your deposit bottles and cans to help pay for it. A collection bin is in the old entrance room.

Maundy Thursday Worship – April 1, 7:00pm

We will not be having a meal with the service this year but we will have communion. The service will also be available by Zoom.

Good Friday Worship – April 2, 7:00pm

This service is in-person and also available by Zoom.

Easter Sunday Worship

6:00 Sunrise Service – This will be in the outdoor chapel if the weather permits. It will be in the gathering area otherwise.

8:30 Communion in the fellowship hall

10:30 Communion in the sanctuary. This service will also be available by Zoom.

Easter Flowers

We will be having some form of in-person worship for Easter and we will have some Easter flowers in the sanctuary. If you would like to sponsor a lily, tulip, hyacinth, or daffodil please let Pastor Jon know. The cost will be the going rate at local grocery stores. We will not be ordering from a florist this year.

April Newsletter

The April newsletter will be sent out early this week. Please have all articles to the church office by Monday.

Giving Up Lint for Lent

Please drop off any dryer lint/candles/crayons/wax you may have at the church by this Thursday.

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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