



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Palm Sunday

March 25, 2018

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.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

† 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!**

*Processional Music Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord from Godspell
Performed by the worship band.*

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

*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

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 Philipians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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 suff'ring, 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.**

Nicene Creed

A: We confirm our faith with the Nicene 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 †

Offering

Hymn of Thanksgiving 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

A: Let us pray: God our provider,

C: you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we received from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 the Christ whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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:

(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. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need gluten free wafers please ask the assistant distributing bread.) You may receive wine from either the common cup or in an individual glass. If you would like to receive in a glass please pick one up from the tray as you approach the altar rail. White grape juice is available in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

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

334 *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (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:

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: The blessing of God Almighty,
the wisdom of the power of Christ Jesus,
and the light of the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

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, 14th century

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Phyllis and Dick Henderson
Acolyte	Kelsey Sackett
Altar Care	Beth Perdan
Communion Assistants	Tim and Liz Brown
Nursery Care	Katy and Bill Stimmel
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	1 st Communion

Worship assistants for next Sunday, April 1, 2018

Greeters and Ushers	Kim and Gary Boiseau
Acolyte	Ally Buch
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Tim Brown and Bill Hagerman
Coffee Hour	<i>No Coffee Hour on Easter</i>

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St. John's Lutheran Church

888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192

The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Heidi Griffith, Music Director