

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
MARCH 24, 2024
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688
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PALM SUNDAY

Introduction

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

The Heart of the Story

Martin Luther called the Psalms a "little Bible." He wrote that all the rest of the Holy Scriptures could be found in them. Luther went so far as to suggest that in the Psalms the church can glimpse the death and resurrection of Christ. In these ancient songs and prayers of the Hebrew people, every human emotion is laid bare: joy and contentment, anger and sorrow, hope and despair. The Psalms give voice to the wide spectrum of experiences that mark our human lives. This is their power—they speak the heart's language, turbulent as our hearts may sometimes be.

In a similar way, Holy Week places us at the center of the whole story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. From the "hosannas" of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the seeming abandonment of the cross, emotions run high this week as the story of Christ's passion reaches into the depths of our human experience. The palm and passion stories are themselves a "little Bible" of salvation for the church within the wider story of God's saving love for all.

As we gather to hear the story of Christ's passion anew, the words and rituals of the church's worship life invite us to feel our way into this story from the inside out. We hear the shouts of blessing and come to the Passover in quiet hope. We follow to Gethsemane and to the cross, with mixed emotions. What does betrayal feel like in our bodies? What about amazement? Fear? How have we experienced ridicule or shame? How have we ourselves dismissed or derided others?

The palm and passion stories offer us a chance to contemplate Christ's sufferings and meditate on our salvation—to come side by side with Christ's passion and so to know and access our own. We are invited to honestly glimpse the workings of our own hearts. Nothing is off limits to God's grace. No human experience is untouched by the story of God's redemptive love.

PRELUDE

The Holy City
by Stephen Adams and Frederic Weatherly
Ed Thieman, tenor

Last night I lay a-sleeping; there came a dream so fair:
I stood in old Jerusalem, beside the temple there.
I heard the children singing, and ever as they sang,
I heard the voice of angels from heaven in answer rang.

Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Lift up your gates, and sing,
“Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna to your King!”

And then, I thought my dream was changed, the streets no longer rang,
Hushed were the glad “Hosannas!” the little children sang.
The sun grew dark with mystery, the morn was cold and chill,
As the shadow of a cross arose upon a lonely hill.

Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Hark! how the Angels sing,
“Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna to your King!”

And once again the scene was changed; new earth there seemed to be!
I saw the Holy City beside the tideless sea;
The light of God was on its streets; the gates were open wide,
And all who would might enter, and no one was denied.
No need of moon or stars by night, or sun to shine by day,
It was the new Jerusalem, that would not pass away.

Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Sing, for the night is o'er!
“Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna for evermore!”

GATHERING

WELCOME

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

John 12:12-16

Jesus enters Jerusalem

[Five days before the Passover] the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**** BLESSING OF PALMS**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph 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. **Amen.**

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

All Glory, Laud and Honor (ELW 344)

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,' are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

**** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In remembrance of their baptism, all may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess that we are caught in the 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.

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. **Amen.**

**** LITANY FOR PALM SUNDAY**

Brothers and sisters:

Be glad and rejoice, for Christ reigns: the King of love, the Lamb of God.

Praise to the King! Praise to the Lamb!

Today, Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph, fulfilling the ancient prophesy: The heir of David will arise to secure the future prosperity of Israel.

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest!”

From David's lineage, the Lord will anoint his Chosen One.

By his justice and his righteousness, his authority will be made known.

“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”

His reign will break the rod of every oppressor and restore joy to the land.

He will establish for his nation a peace that never ends.

“Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

Hosanna to the Son of God!

GATHERING HYMN

*Hosanna!
Kris Turner, soloist*

(Refrain - Music Ministers / **All**)

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

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!

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

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)
King of Israel, welcome to our hearts,
Here to reign in righteousness.
O Ruler of the world, Ruler of our hearts,
Now ascend your throne. You are the King of kings. Hosanna!

(Refrain - Music Ministers / **All**)
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)
To Jerusalem, to the sons of man,
Riding in on in gentle strength,
Oh, come to save your own! Come to give your life!
The Kingdom is at hand. You are the King of kings. Hosanna!

(**All**)
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!

(Refrain - Music Ministers / **All**)
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!

(Verse 3 - **All**)
King of Israel, welcome to our hearts,
Here to reign in righteousness.
O Ruler of the world, Ruler of our hearts,
Now ascend your throne. You are the King of kings. Hosanna!

(Refrain - Music Ministers / **All**)
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna!

**** GREETING**

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

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Assistant Minister

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. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

A reading from Isaiah:

The 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. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I 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. The 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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 31: Father, into Your Hands
Angie Seltzer, cantor

Fa - ther, in - to your hands I com -
mend my spir - it. Fa - ther, in - to
your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

Verse 1 In your, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.
In your justice set me free. You will redeem me, O faithful God.

Verse 2 To my foes I am a reproach, to my friends an object of dread
Those who see me in the street flee from me.
I am forgotten like a dish that is broken.

Verse 3 But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God.
My life is in your hands; save me from the clutches of my enemies.

Verse 4 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your love."
Be strong, let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the Lord.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

A reading from Philippians:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he 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, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

** GOSPEL READING

Mark 11:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples and 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. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Then 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how
 (2. Be) - hold the Man up - on a cross, my
 (3. I) will not boast in an - y - thing: No

vast be - yond all meas - ure that He should give His on - ly Son to
 sin up - on His shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
 gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: His

make a wretch His treas - ure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss. The
 out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held Him there un -
 death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from His re - ward? I

Fa - ther turns His face a - way as wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring
 - til it was ac - com - plished; His dy - ing breath has brought me life. I
 can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with all my heart: His

man - y sons to glo - ry.
 know that it is fin - ished.
 wounds have paid my ran - som.

Fine

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
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.**

**** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

Each intercession concludes:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Jesus, the Lord

text from Philippians 2:5-11, Acts 17:28; para. Roc O'Connor, SJ

Music by Roc O'Connor, SJ

Duane Tackis, tenor

Mark Shoemaker, baritone

Men of the GSLC Music Ministry

Jesus!

Let all creation bend the knee
To the Lord.

In him, we live;
We move and have our being;
In him, the Christ; in him, the King!
Jesus, the Lord.

Though Son,
He did not cling to godliness,
But emptied himself, became a slave!
Jesus, the Lord.

He Lived
Obediently his Father's will,
Accepting his death, death on a tree!
Jesus, the Lord.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life 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.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

** GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

** WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are invited and welcomed here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

** LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come! **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God (ELW 336)



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

** TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

SENDING

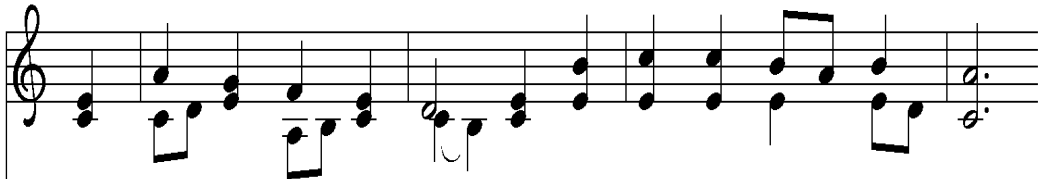
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

** BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

** SENDING HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (ELW 351)



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.





O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint-ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans-gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

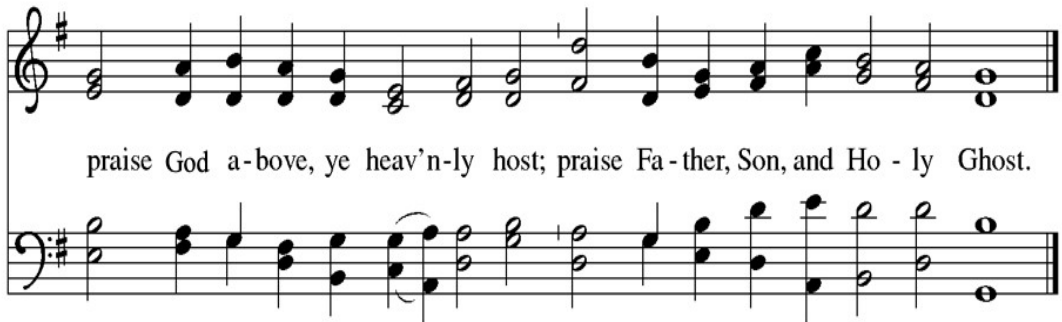


**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be - low;



praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980 Sunday, March 24, 2024

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord Monday, March 25, 2024

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824 Friday, March 29, 2024

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

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