

## PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Step by Step  
March 23 & 24, 2024  
5:00 pm & 8:00am

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### AS WE GATHER

Today's processional Gospel looks at the first day of Holy Week, and the Passion carries us on to Jesus' tomb. Throughout the entire week, and since His transfiguration, our Lord has moved toward the cross step by step. Despite opposition from crowds and His circle of friends, He has been determined to love us to death so that He might open heaven to us by the grace of God. Zechariah had written about the procession centuries earlier, and Paul proclaims that God the Father has exalted Jesus for His steadfast commitment to our salvation. But this is no mere history! We also are called to follow, to live through each day, step by step, faithful under various circumstances yet confident of mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame,  
and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men,  
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PROCESSION OF PALMS ✠

*Please rise and face the processional cross*

### GREETING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

### PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Help us, Lord our God, so that it may be with joy that we begin our contemplation of all the mighty things you have done to give us eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

### THE PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL *John 12:12–19* (The triumphal entry)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup>And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, <sup>15</sup>"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" <sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup>The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup>The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup>So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PRAYER

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, heavenly Father. Today we especially thank you for the love you showed as your Son redeemed us. Step by step our Savior followed your will so that by His glorious death He would redeem us and draw us to Himself. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, those who greeted Him cut palm branches to lay before Him.

**People: We ask that you bless these palms and all who bear them this day. Grant that we may always hail Him as our Lord and King;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Please wave your palms, joining with the followers of Jesus on that first Palm Sunday.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN #442 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

**Refrain** All glory, laud, and honor To You, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel And David's royal Son,  
Now in the Lord's name coming, Our King and Blessed One. **Refrain**

The company of angels Is praising You on high,  
And we with all creation In chorus make reply. **Refrain**

The multitude of pilgrims With palms before You went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems Before You we present. **Refrain**

To You before Your passion They sang their hymns of praise;  
To You, now high exalted, Our melody we raise. **Refrain**

As You received their praises, Accept the prayers we bring,  
O Source of ev'ry blessing, Our good and gracious King. **Refrain**

*When all have arrived at their places, the procession concludes with the following:*

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Hosanna in the highest.**

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Today is the beginning of Holy Week. During it we shall recall how our Savior gave His life so that our sins may all be forgiven, and heaven opened to us.

**People: Even during worship, our minds wander to other concerns.**

Pastor: These concerns are already known to God. Give them into His loving hands for resolution, but turn your hearts and minds to focus on our Lord's step-by-step determination to free us from every sin. Confident of the forgiveness He won through His glorious death and resurrection, let us then admit our sinful condition to Him and to one another.

**People: I confess to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in my thinking, speaking, and acting. I am mired in sin and incapable of saving myself. Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake and because of His sacrifice for us fallen creatures, we beg you to forgive, strengthen, and turn us to your will so that we may follow our Savior in loving service to you and to one another.**

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, who gave Himself over to death that we might have eternal life, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross.

**People: Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

✠ **WORD** ✠

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Zechariah 9:9–12* (The King comes humbly on a donkey.) <sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Philippians 2:5–11* (Because of His humble death, Christ has been exalted by the Father.) <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**8:00 CHOIR** *“Lift Up Your Heads with Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*

**PASSION READING** *Mark 15:1–47* (Step by step Jesus goes to His glorious death.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fifteenth chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**15** And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” <sup>3</sup> And the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup> And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” <sup>5</sup> But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

**Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified**

<sup>6</sup> Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup> And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. <sup>8</sup> And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. <sup>9</sup> And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” <sup>10</sup> For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up.

<sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. <sup>12</sup> And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” <sup>13</sup> And they cried out again, “Crucify him.”

<sup>14</sup> And Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.” <sup>15</sup> So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

**Jesus Is Mocked**

<sup>16</sup> And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. <sup>17</sup> And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup> And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup> And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

## The Crucifixion

<sup>21</sup> And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. <sup>22</sup> And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). <sup>23</sup> And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup> And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. <sup>25</sup> And it was the third hour when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup> And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup> And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, <sup>30</sup> save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup> So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup> Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

## The Death of Jesus

<sup>33</sup> And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup> And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>35</sup> And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." <sup>36</sup> And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup> And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" <sup>40</sup> There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. <sup>41</sup> When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

## Jesus Is Buried

<sup>42</sup> And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, <sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the

council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. <sup>45</sup> And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON HYMN #441 "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.  
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,  
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin  
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! The angel armies of the sky  
Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes  
To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh.  
The Father on His sapphire throne  
Awaits His own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,  
Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

## SERMON

(Rise)

### **OFFERTORY**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Amen.

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Because our Lord humbled Himself and became obedient even to death on the cross, now He is highly exalted, at the Father's right hand, ready and able to receive our prayers and accept our praise. Let us go to Him in prayer for all people in their various circumstances. For people without the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter, that the Holy Spirit would hear their cries and groans, bringing tears of relief and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** For all who face this day burdened with illness or addiction, ongoing conflict with people around them, or fear of what might happen, that God would assure them of His gracious presence and strengthen their faith in His guidance and protection, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** For those who serve the needs of others as they provide medical and emergency care, as they maintain order in our communities and peace across borders, and as they put themselves in danger that their neighbors may find the protection they need, that God would use the gifts He has placed within them to serve in compassion and love, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** For loving families and caring communities, for schools and institutions of higher learning, wherever people gather to share and build up, that God would provide them the wisdom and understanding they need to do His will, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** For people near and dear to us, especially Karen, Dick, Wendy, Michael, Margie, Anna, Jim, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Janice, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Helga, June, Shirley and Sarah, that God would visit, relief, and console them in His grace and mercy, and for the church here and around the world, that our Lord would strengthen our faith and move us to be His servants, drawing people to His glorious death and resurrection and serving Him with all that we are and have, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Into your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People:** 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.

### ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on those whom you created and sent your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg you, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**Pastor:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**Pastor:** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us your body and blood to eat and to drink, you lead us to remember and confess your holy cross and passion, your blessed death, your rest in the tomb, your resurrection from the dead, your ascension into heaven, and your coming for the final judgment.

## PAX DOMINI

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### HYMN #629

### “What Is This Bread”

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:  
This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release.  
O taste and see- the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;  
The cup of grace Brings His embrace Of life and love until I sing!  
O taste and see- the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die Under the rod?  
My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?  
O taste and see- the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,  
In mouth and soul He makes us whole- Christ, truly present in this meal.  
O taste and see- the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!  
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.  
O taste and see- the Lord is good.

**HYMN #641**                    **“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”**

**Refrain:**     **You satisfy the hungry heart With gift of finest wheat.  
                  Come give to us, O saving Lord, The bread of life to eat.**

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice;  
So when you call your fam’ly, Lord, We follow and rejoice. **Refrain**  
With joyful lips we sing to you Our praise and gratitude  
That You should count us worthy, Lord, To share this heav’nly food. **Refrain**  
Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare Our oneness in the Lord? **Refrain**  
The myst’ry of Your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell:  
Whom all the world cannot contain Comes in our hearts to dwell. **Refrain**  
You give Yourself to us, O Lord; Then selfless let us be,  
To serve each other in Your name in truth and charity. **Refrain**

**HYMN #455**                    **“The Royal Banners Forward Go”**

The royal banners forward go; The cross shows forth redemption’s flow,  
Where He, by whom our flesh was made, our ransom in His flesh has paid.  
Where deep for us the spear was dyed, Life’s torrent rushing from His side,  
To wash us in the precious flood Where flowed the water and the blood.  
Fulfilled is all that David told In sure prophetic song of old,  
That God the nation’s king should be And reign in triumph from the tree,  
On whose hard arms, so widely flung, The weight of this world’s ransom hung,  
The price of humankind to pay And spoil the spoiler of his prey.  
O tree of beauty, tree most fair, Ordained those holy limbs to bear:  
Gone is thy shame, each crimsoned bough Proclaims the King of Glory now.  
To Thee, eternal Three in One, Let homage meet by all be done;  
As by the cross Thou dost restore, So guide and keep us evermore. Amen.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**RECESSIONAL #443**                    **“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”**

Hosanna, loud hosanna, The little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple The lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them, Close folded to His breast,  
The children sang their praises, The simplest and the best.  
From Olivet they followed Mid an exultant crowd,  
The victor palm branch waving And chanting clear and loud.  
The Lord of earth and heaven Rode on in lowly state  
Nor scorned that little children Should on His bidding wait.  
“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing;  
For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heav’n our King.  
Oh, may we ever praise Him With heart and life and voice  
And in His blissful presence Eternally rejoice!

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Dalen Heinzen, Grant Gundersen  
Olivia Kukor

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## **Holy Week Worship**

### **Maundy Thursday**

March 28 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

### **Good Friday**

March 29 at 1:00 & 6:00pm

### **Easter Vigil**

March 30 at 5:00pm

### **Easter Sunrise**

March 31 at 6:30am

### **Easter Celebration**

March 31 at 9:00 & 11:00am

### **Easter Breakfast**

**7:45 Easter morning in the Fellowship Hall**



