



**SHEPHERD  
OF THE PRAIRIE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship  
April 2, 2023  
9:00 a.m.  
**Palm/Passion Sunday**

**PRELUDE**

**PROCESSION WITH PALMS**

(based upon Luke 19:28-40 text for the day)

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

***(wave palms)* Hosanna to the Son of David!**

Praise to Christ who comes as Messiah and Savior  
of the world!

***(wave palms)* Hosanna to the Son of David!**

## Reading

## Luke 19:28-40

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: LUKE 19:28-40

After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

**"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"**

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

## THANKSGIVING

*(Those in the congregation raise their branches.)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Presiding Minister:* 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**

We gather as the first Christians gathered on this day and lay their garments before you as you entered Jerusalem in triumph. We raise our palm branches and boldly proclaim for the whole world to hear:

*(We begin our journey into Holy Week walking into the sanctuary and repeating these words until all have gathered)*

**(wave palms) Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. We hail you as the Son of God, our Savior and King! Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest!**

#### **PROCESSION & OPENING HYMN**

“ALL GLORY LAUD AND HONOR” ELW 344

#### **THE GREETING**

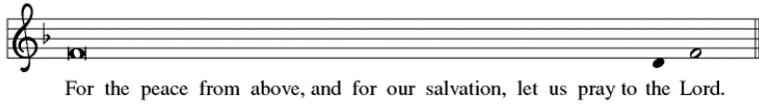
*Presiding Minister:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***Congregation:* And also with you.**

# Kyrie



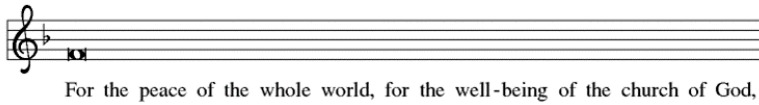
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



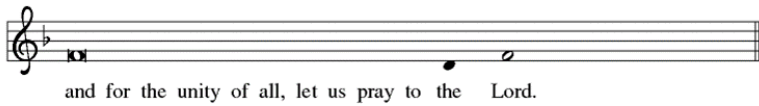
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



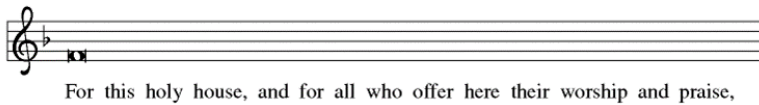
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



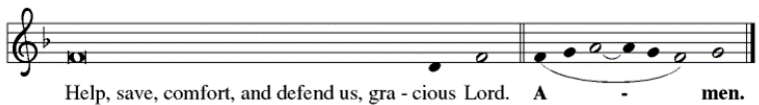
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## Prayer Of The Day

Help us, O God, amid all that is unfinished, to meet you in the ordinary experiences of our everyday lives. Still our hearts in this in between time that we might recognize you where we least expect to find you. Help us to believe that nothing is too insignificant to make your presence known. In the name of Jesus, Amen

**Amen.**

(please be seated)

## Children's Message

### Reading

*Reader:* The Reading today is from Philippians 2:5-11

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.

*Reader:* This is the Word of the Lord!

*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn “Hosanna , Loud Hosanna”      screen only**

## Psalm

*Reader:* The Psalm today is from Psalm 31

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.**

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

*Reader:* This is the Word of the Lord!

*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God!**

(please stand as you are able)

## Gospel Acclamation

*"Return to the Lord Your God" ELW p.142*

## Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

*Preacher:* The Gospel according to Matthew the 27th chapter.

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

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief

priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"<sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and



struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Preacher: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(please be seated)

## **The Message**

Pastor Mark Boster

(please stand as you are able)

## **Hymn Of The Day**

*"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"* ELW 335

## **The Statement of Faith**

(Luther's Explanation to the Third Article of the Creed)

**I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.**

## The Prayers

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, fearful or ill (*especially those we name now aloud or silently in our hearts...pause*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, technicians, ushers, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **Passing Of The Peace**

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

*Congregation:* **And also with you.**

Greet one another: **“Peace be with you.”**

(please be seated)

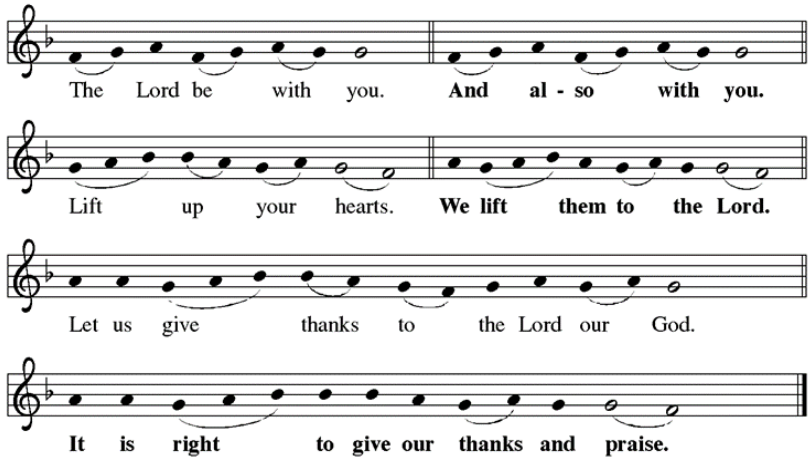
## **Offering**

(please stand as you are able)

## **Offering Prayer**

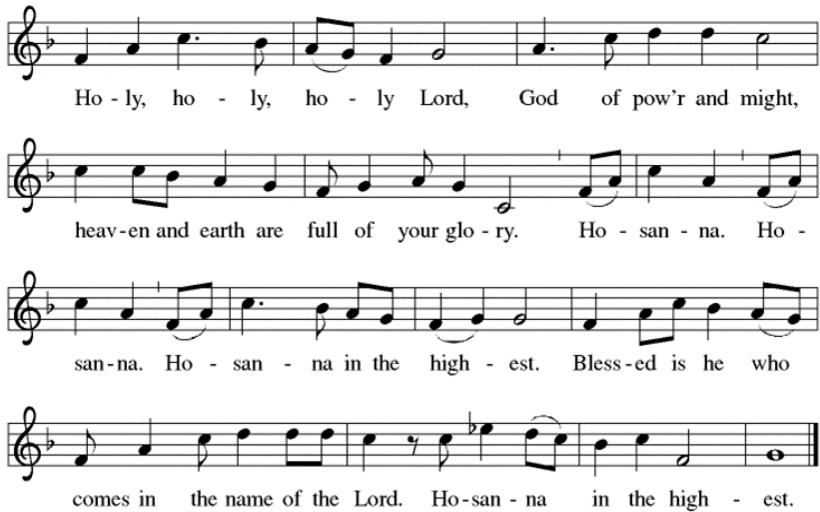
*Assisting Minister:* God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
**Amen.**

# Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Presiding Minister:* It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

# Words Of Institution

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

(please be seated)

## Communion Distribution

### Distribution Music

“Lamb of God” ELW Setting 3

“My Song is Love Unknown” ELW 343

(please stand as you are able)

## Post-Communion Blessing

### Prayer after Communion

*Assisting Minister: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.*

**Amen.**

## Benediction

### Sending Hymn

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” ELW 347

### Dismissal

*Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve in love.*

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude