



BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

LIGHT OF CHRIST * ST. JOHN'S WINDISH * ST. PETERS



SUNDAY OF THE PASSION (PALM SUNDAY)

Saturday, April 1, 5PM @ St. Peter's
Sunday, April 2, 10AM @ SJW

WELCOME TO BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Thank you for joining us today! We are a brand-new congregation formed from the merger of three historic Bethlehem congregations. Blessed Trinity is being served by **Pastor Mike Button** in an interim capacity while the congregation prepares to call its own pastor.

This week's organist is **Linda Maule**.

We follow an ancient pattern of worship that we call **liturgy**. It sounds fancy, but we're just imitating the first followers of Christ who (1) **gathered** to read the (2) **word of God**, (3) **share a meal**, and encourage one another before (4) **sending** each other out into the world to share God's love.

WELCOME



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE *"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" - Arranged by Wagner/Lasky*

ACCLAMATION

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”

⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds

were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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.

A brief silence is kept.

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.**

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROCESSION *All Glory, Laud, and Honor (ELW 344)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

A brief silence is kept

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.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

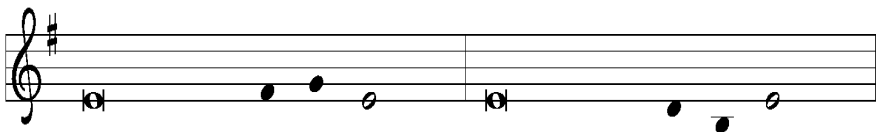
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 31:9-16*

The psalm for the day is sung responsively.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in
trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and
my belly. ¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with
sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction,

and my bones I are consumed.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to I my acquaintances; when they see me in the street I they avoid me. ¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, I out of mind; I am as useless as a I broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is I all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to I take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in I you, O LORD.**

I have said, “You I are my God.

¹⁵My times are I in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who I persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine up- I on your servant; save me in your I steadfast love.”**

SECOND READING *Philippians 2:5-11*

A reading from Philippians.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL *Matthew 26:14--27:66*

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

(See choral reading insert.)

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Song Is Love Unknown (LOVE UNKNOWN) (ELW 343)*

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 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence is kept.

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, especially in Ukraine. 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, or fearful, especially those facing health challenges. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who

assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

other intercessions may be offered.

Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANTHEM *“Hosanna” -- Gregor-Trusler*

OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 188)*

Create in Me a Clean Heart



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,



and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.


PREFACE

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 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 their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of



pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

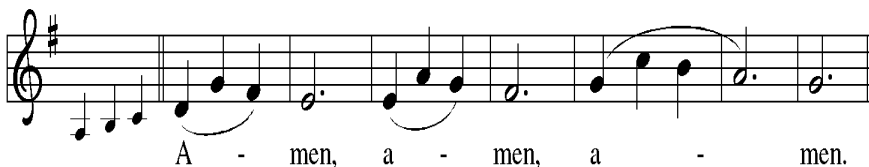
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
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

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
 way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMNS

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (MARTYRDOM) (ELW 337)

Go to Dark Gethsemane (ELW 347)

Ah, Holy Jesus (ELW 349)

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,

✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *There in God's Garden (ELW 342)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *There in God's Garden - Arranged by Burkhardt*

GOSPEL MESSAGE

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

Parades and Long Walks

The stories we hear for Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday are marked by a series of parades. The crowd shouts “Hosanna” as Jesus processes into Jerusalem. After his arrest, he is paraded to the home of Caiaphas to be confronted by the scribes and elders. They bind him and parade him to Pilate. The soldiers lead him to the governor’s headquarters before he is paraded to Golgotha to be crucified.

These were not celebratory parades. For Jesus, each of these journeys was another step on his long walk toward death. We may not know what it is to be paraded about before crowds of people as Jesus was, but we can understand the long walk toward death.

Perhaps you have taken the long walk from a hospital parking lot to the information desk, from the desk around the corner to the visitors’ elevators, and from the elevator through the maze of hallways to the bedside of a loved one to sit vigil as they breathe their last. Maybe you have made the long walk between cubicles to your boss’s office during a time of layoffs, knowing what news is coming. The walk from a classroom to the principal’s office is long and scary, for both the student and the parent who was called in to school from work.

Life has plenty of long and painful walks we would just as soon avoid. Jesus’ prayer at Gethsemane tells us he did not want to take his walk either. And yet he did take that walk. In so doing, he joins us in all of our long and weary wanderings that end in the things of death. Jesus is with us in our deepest pain. But the story does not end there. The journey continues as the women walk to the empty tomb, as Jesus walks with disciples to Emmaus, and as he continues to walk us to places of new life.