

Palm to Passion Sunday

March 23 & 24, 2024

Holy Week Worship

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
600 N MAIN STREET
STOCKTON, IL 61085
815-947-2033

				
PALM to PASSION SUNDAY*	MAUNDY THURSDAY*	GOOD FRIDAY	EASTER VIGIL*	EASTER SUNDAY*
March 23 & 24 5:30 pm & 10:00 am	March 28 7:00 pm holy communion and stripping the Altar	March 29 7:00 pm Service of Darkness	March 30 5:30 pm with baptism	March 31 7 & 10 am Breakfast 8am
WORSHIP IN PERSON www.facebook.com/ChristenMainSt			*Communion will be served ALL are welcome	

Christ Lutheran Church

"A Place Where You are Always Welcome"

Services: Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 10:00 am

Wednesday 7 pm (lent and advent)

Sunday School: 9:00 am

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Ministers: ALL members of the congregation

Pastor: Rev. Chrissy Salser chrissytherev@att.net **815-988-9450**

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WELCOME: *Thank you for joining us for worship today. We are glad you are with us. Communion will be served in your pews or in the aisle. All are welcome to share at this meal. Jesus is our host and invites everyone.. As you entered worship you could have received your communion element, at that part of the service, you are invited to take the bread and wine (or grape juice) when Pr. Chrissy leads. Those who would like to come forward, bread and wine will also be available in the front. When directed by the usher, come forward down the center aisle, Pr Chrissy will give you bread (she will be masked and wearing clothes) and then you will take a cup of wine (grape juice) from the tray. After taking communion you will return to your seat by the side aisle. To reduce passing, offering is collected as you enter or leave worship. Online giving is available. Please see QR code on back of bulletin or visit our website.*

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.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

"The Way"

by Ann Weems

The way to Jerusalem looks suspiciously like Highway 20, and the pilgrims look suspiciously like you and me. I expected the road to Jerusalem to be crowded with holy people...

clerics and saints...

people who have kindness wrinkled in their faces and comfort lingering in their voices, but this is more like rush hour...

horns blowing, people pushing, voices cursing...

this is not what I envisioned!

O God, I've only begun and already I feel I've lost my way. Surely this is not the road and sure these are not the ones to travel with me.

This Lenten journey calls for holy retreat, for reflection, and repentance.

Instead of holiness this highway is crammed with the cacophony of chaos.

Is there no back road to Jerusalem? No quiet path where angels tend to weary travelers?

No sanctuary from the noise of the world? Just this?

Can this hectic highway be the highway to heaven?

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Hosanna in the highest!** *(Repeat several times.) Please stand.*

Scripture Mark 11:1-11

P: 1When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples 2and 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. 3If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" 4They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. 7Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. 8Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9 Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

10Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

11Then 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.

P: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Procession of Palms The Palms

O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay Are strewn this day in festival preparation, Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away; E'en now the throng to welcome him prepare.

Refrain: Join all and Hosanna! Let Ev'ry voice resound with united Acclamation, Hosanna! Praised be the Lord, Bless Him who cometh to bring us salvation.

His word goes forth, and people by its might Once more their freedom gain from degradation; humanity doth give to each his right, While those in darkness find restored the light.

Refrain

Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem, Of all thy songs sing the emancipation; Thro boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem Brings forth the hope to thee forevermore.

Refrain

Litany of Confession

- P: Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you? C: I am here.
P: Peter, slave of fear, where are you? C: I am here.
P: Thomas, slave of doubt, where are you? C: I am here.
P: Men and women of Jerusalem, enslaved to mob rule, where are you?
C: I am here.
P: Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you? C: I am here.
P: The story of Christ's passion and death mirrors for us much of our own weakness and sin. We all come *here* as men and women who have missed the mark and who are alienated from God and our neighbors near and far.

Words of Forgiveness

- P: Hear the Good News: Even Judas was included in that last supper with Jesus.
C: **Even when we are languishing in the depths, Christ offers his grace.**
P: God who is rich in mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love has come to us in Jesus, who by his holy cross has deemed the world. Buried with Christ by baptism into death, By grace you have been saved. In the name of †Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Cross Marked and spirit-sealed, you are raised to new life. Almighty God strengthen you in faith to live each day renewed in God's call for your life. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

- P: Let us pray together. Help us, O God,
C: **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**

First Reading Psalm 31:9-16

- ⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
¹¹I 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.
¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**
¹³For 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.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, “You are my God.**

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

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

R: 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.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

Children’s Message

Offering song

“Were You There” vs. 1 & 2

ELW 353

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Refrain: Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Refrain: Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray together: Extravagant God, **C: you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Great thanksgiving and Word's of Institution

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.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation To Communion:

P. Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. So come to this table, You who have much faith and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often, And you who have not been for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here. Christ spreads a table before you. Gather here with all the saints. Communion is served by intinction. *Please come down the center aisle, take the bread, then receive a cup (wine is dark, juice is light, return to your seats via side aisle.) Those who prefer to take communion in your pews, we will take all together after all is served.*

Distribution of Communion (those who can come forward are invited to come forward, those who wish to take in pew, please wait til instructed by Pr Chrissy)

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. *(All take bread).*

P: This is the blood of Christ shed for you. *(All take the wine or juice).*

Table blessing

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C. Amen.**

Following Jesus' welcome into Jerusalem – the story moves quickly. Listen as the story continues . . .

The Passion Reading according to Mark

NARRATOR 2: While 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. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

ALL: “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.”

NARRATOR 1: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

JESUS: “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

Narrator 2: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Narrator 1: On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

WOMEN: “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

Narrator 2: So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

JESUS: “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

Narrator 1: So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

JESUS: “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

Narrator 2: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

MEN: “Surely, not I?”

Narrator 2: He said to them,

JESUS: “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

Narrator 1: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

JESUS: "Take; this is my body."

Narrator 2: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

JESUS: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Narrator 1: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

Narrator 2: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

Narrator 1: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

Narrator 1: But he said vehemently,

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

Narrator 2: And all of them said the same.

Narrator 1: They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I pray."

Narrator 2: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

Narrator 1: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

JESUS: "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

Narrator 2: He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Narrator 1: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

JESUS: “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Hymn

Stay with Me

ELW #348

(Sing 3 times)

Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

Narrator 2: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.”

Narrator 1: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

JUDAS: “Rabbi!”

Narrator 2: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.”

Narrator 1: All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

Narrator 2: They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

ALL: “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’”

Narrator 1: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

HIGH PRIEST: “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”

Narrator 2: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

HIGH PRIEST: "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

JESUS: "I am; and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven."

Narrator 2: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

Narrator 1: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

ALL: "Prophecy!"

Narrator 2: The guards also took him over and beat him.

Narrator 1: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

WOMEN: "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

Narrator 2: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

Narrator 1: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

WOMEN: "This man is one of them."

Narrator 2: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

WOMEN: "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

Narrator 1: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know this man you are talking about."

Narrator 2: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,

JESUS: "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

Narrator 1: And he broke down and wept.

Narrator 2: As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Narrator 1: He answered him,

JESUS: "You say so."

Narrator 2: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

PILATE: "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

Narrator 1: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Narrator 2: Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

PILATE: “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

Narrator 1: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

PILATE: “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

Narrator 2: They shouted back,

ALL: “Crucify him!”

Narrator 1: Pilate asked them,

PILATE: “Why, what evil has he done?”

Narrator 2: But they shouted all the more,

ALL: “Crucify him!”

Narrator 1: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Narrator 2: Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

MEN: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Narrator 1: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Narrator 2: They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

Narrator 1: It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

ALL: “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!”

Narrator 2: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

ALL: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

Narrator 1: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Hymn Go to Dark Gethsemane ELW #347 vs. 1 & 2

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.

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.

Prayers

- P: As we prepare for one of the holiest of weeks, journeying through praise, traveling through betrayal, we gather at the foot of your cross and lift our prayers to you...
- P: God of Steadfast Love: you hand us the palm branches, so we can wave them in hope; you steady us in the days when pain is stuck to the bottom of our lives, when fear is our constant companion. We empty ourselves so you might fill us with joy.
Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**
- P: God our Humble Healer: When our mouths turn numb and we cannot speak our dreams, you tenderly caress our cheeks, leaning over to hear our faltering words. When our arms have grown weak from the burdens we carry, you take them from us, and strengthen us with your mercy. We empty ourselves so you might fill us with grace. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**
- P: God our Voice of Wisdom: when death hovers so close we can feel it's cold breath, you come to us, the warm breath of resurrection pushing aside our fears. When we hesitate to walk into the unknown stretching before us, you tightly clasp our hands and teach us the first step. We empty ourselves so you might fill us with peace.
Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**
- P: God in Community, Holy in One, we open our hearts to you, offering all of our needs and concerns, both those we know and those we only feel in the depth of our guts. Bring us together, in this place to be your people- and then send us out, to be your people in your world. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: As we wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love and our prayers before you. As our voices join those that cry 'crucify' we lay our hurts and betrayals before you. As we join the women who weep, we lay all that we have before you. Into your hands, gracious Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Passion Reading from Mark Continues

Narrator 2: When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

Narrator 1: which means,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Narrator 2: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

ALL: "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

Narrator 1: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

WOMEN: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Narrator 2: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

MEN: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Narrator 1: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Narrator 2: When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Narrator 1: Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

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.

Benediction

P: Before this week ends, the palm branches will be drying on the roadside. The joyful crowd will become an angry mob, and Jesus will replace robes of victory with a crown of thorns. So then, go in the knowledge that whatever comes to you in this week, you are held in the hand of God, hugged tight, held close, and may God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, uphold you, and give you strength for the journey ahead.

It was three dark, long days and while we know that Easter comes, we must journey through the darkness of Good Friday first. This morning’s service was much like flying cross country, you covered a lot of ground at a distance.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: Peggy Harmston, Pat Grenoble, Cullen Schubert, Lorie Rice, and Debra Noller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks be to God for your gifts for the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church				Offering/ Attendance Report 3/17/24	
Current Expense	\$1846.00	Lent 3/13/24	\$180.00	March 16	19
		Building Fund	\$10.00	Sunday School	16
Benevolence	\$335.00	Lent	\$11.00	March 17	43
		Total	\$ 2202.00	March 13	17

2024		
	February	Year to date
Offerings:	\$7,145	\$13,747
Expenses:	\$10,299	\$18,579
Overall Gain / Loss	(\$3,154)	(\$4,833)

FEBRUARY TOTALS: As a way to improve communication around finances, we are sharing the information above:

ONLINE GIVING: Your gift has a big impact on our ministries and those we serve. Scan this code or visit our website to give online today.

THE TABLE: The Table is an opportunity for outreach to the local community. This is a weekly noon meal provided by local churches to gather for food, fellowship and fun. This community outreach is in the works, please pray as we work to bring this into our community. If you are interested in volunteering please talk with Janet Haas or Debbie Goebel.

COLLECTION FOR VOICES: During Lent we will be collecting items for Voices of Stephenson County. Please bring items to the church. We will collect through Easter and then get them to the organization. Voices Mission Statement. *“At VOICES of Stephenson County, we believe survivors and respect their decisions. For some, that may mean speaking their truths and expressing their stories. Others may remain silent. All have one goal in mind: to live free from violence. We equip survivors with the tools they need to move forward with their lives. Assistance is only a click or call away.”* Thank you for all who contributed, \$384 was collected for Voices.



Donation Ideas/Suggestions:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| • Laundry detergent | • Aluminum foil | • Toilet paper (4 |
| • Fabric softener | • Paper towels | packs) |
| • Dryer sheets | (individually | • Hand soap |
| • Baggies (all sizes) | wrapped or small | • New pillows |
| • Plastic wrap | packs) | |

HOW WILL YOU SERVE IN WORSHIP: We need you!!!! to light the candles, read scripture, usher, prepare communion, set up coffee, run Facebook live, help make the space inviting. Sign up in the back of the church on the clip board. Sign up for one service or many.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Did you know that our Sunday school has more than one class. The kids start in the sanctuary and then move to the nursery, while the adult class meets in the **“Upper room”** (room outside the office). We study the scripture text for Sunday mornings. Come and See!

UPDATE OF COUNCIL LEADERSHIP: We are still looking for a trustee if you feel called to help fulfill this need. Please pray for our council leadership.

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT LOMC: mark your schedule now.... We have rescheduled for September 13 & 14. Plan to join us. We are hoping to bring a group of ten or more. More information can be found online

VBS: This summer..... get ready for an action-packed Hero Hotline! We come together to encounter and serve God together. VBS is June 3-7 from 9-11:30. Registration will be going live soon. Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping out, please see Pastor Chrissy or Darcie Raab. We will have a volunteer meeting on Sunday, April 7th following worship. Please

plan on attending so we can start getting everything finalized. We need someone to run the recreation area and volunteers to rotate with each group as well. Can't come every day, no worries, we would love to have you help.

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE 2024 SPRING GATHERING: Women of the ELCA announces the 2024 Spring gathering to be held here at Christ Lutheran Church on Thursday April 4th. 9:30am registration, brunch served at 10:00am. Cost \$15.00. Open to all women of the ELCA & guest. Program: Mosaic, Social Ministry of ELCA Pastor Twia Schock, presenter. Registration forms can be found in the back of church.

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY: Worship and Meeting. April 7, 2024 @ 2pm. Featuring Jazz Worship. A unique worship opportunity. Held at Furlong Funeral Chapel 100 Caroldon Court, Galena IL. Questions please contact Pastor Robin Luckey 779-214-0113

Upcoming Events

- March 23- 5:30 pm Palm/Passion Worship
- March 24 -9 am Sunday School
- March 24- 10 am Palm/Passion Worship March 25- 9 am Quilting
- March 26, 10:30 Table Training at Calvary
- March 28 -7pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- March 29 -7 pm Good Friday
- March 30 -5:30 Easter vigil
- **March 31- Easter Sunday worship 7 am / 10 am Breakfast 8 am**
- April 4 -10 am Northwest Conference Spring Gathering
- April 6- 8 am Spring Clean up
- April 7- after worship VBS Volunteer meeting
- **April 7- 2 pm Northwest Conference assembly Galena, IL**
- **VBS June 3rd-7th- 9am-11:30 am**
- **September 13-14 -Women's Retreat at LOMC**

Note: Wednesday bible study will take a break until April 10.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



We are now on the Lenten journey—the pilgrimage which began on Ash Wednesday when we solemnly confessed our sins and received the ashes—the symbol of our brokenness and mortality. From this event we walk toward Holy Week and Easter where we will remember, celebrate and participate in Christ's death and resurrection.



Lent exists for the sake of Easter. During Lent we do battle with everything in our lives to which we must die. We also practice, in a very intentional way, the new life which is the gift of Easter. Thus we do the Lenten disciplines—prayer, fasting, meditating, reading, almsgiving, Scripture study, simplifying, advocacy for the poor and hungry, peacemaking, doing deeds of love and mercy.

Our Holy Week journey begins on Passion Sunday (often called Palm Sunday) when we carry branches into our worship room to commemorate our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. Ritually and symbolically the worship room becomes our Jerusalem. Here we will participate in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. The mood of our entry is one of exultant joy. The Messiah marches to his glory—to be lifted up to draw the whole world to himself. After the procession we read the passion account, the story in which we will participate during the coming days.



During Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, we solemnly contemplate the meaning of Christ's passion. We do this either in solitude, in a family grouping or in quiet services of holy communion with our congregation.

*On Thursday we begin **THE TRIDUUM** which means **THE THREE DAYS**. **THE Triduum** includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve. The three liturgies during these days are one liturgy. No benediction separates them. We leave the worship room for a while to return and continue celebrating the great mystery of our redemption.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy means "command." On this day Jesus commanded his disciples to wash one another's feet.

We begin with confession and absolution. The absolution marks the end of our Lenten journey which began with the Ash Wednesday confession of sin.



The washing of feet teaches servanthood, the life we live when we are united to Christ's death and resurrection.

We share the eucharist because on this night Jesus instituted the Supper saying "THIS IS MY BODY" and "THIS IS MY BLOOD." The white liturgical color tells us - this meal is a foretaste of Easter!



As Psalm 22 is chanted, the altar is stripped and all decorations are removed. We are reminded that Christ walked from the supper to his humiliation and death.

If we are united to him, we must also die. We must also give up everything.

We exit in silence...

GOOD FRIDAY

We return in silence to a barren worship room. As we hear the passion story according to Saint John, we see the crucifixion as the glorification of Jesus. Lifted up, he draws the whole world to himself.



We pray the bidding prayer which includes petitions for everyone in the world. Thus we affirm - Christ died for all!

A rough-hewn cross is carried into the worship room. In solemn adoration we behold the cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.



In silence we meditate on the mystery of the crucified savior. After a closing hymn of victory and a final response of adoration...

We exit in silence...

~~~~~ EASTER EVE ~~~~~

Now we reach the pinnacle of our three day celebration (and the high point of the church year). On this most holy night we make passage with Christ from death to life. The Easter Eve Vigil, the Christian Passover and the most festive of all liturgies in the early church, includes:

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Outside the worship room the Easter Candle (Paschal Candle) is lit from a "new fire." With candles lit from the Easter candle, we process into the dark and barren sanctuary. The light of Christ breaks the darkness of sin and death! Through the words of the glorious and ancient paschal hymn of praise we join all creation in praising God for the mystery of our redemption.



THE SERVICE OF READINGS

We read the passages from the Hebrew Scriptures which were used by the early church to instruct baptismal candidates. The lessons help us to understand our own baptismal passage from death to life.

THE SERVICE OF BAPTISM



On this night when Christ passed from death to life, baptismal candidates enter the water to die and rise with Christ. The rest of us renew the covenant of our baptism. Water is sprinkled on the congregation (or placed on each worshiper) to remind us of our baptism.

THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

Bells ring! The worship room is decorated. All signs of Holy Week are removed. Lights are turned up as we sing the GLORIA. Then as Easter people who have passed with Christ from death to life, we meet our risen Lord in the eucharist. The TRIDUUM is ended... We have celebrated the mystery of the world's redemption...

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

On Easter Day we return to the worship room to celebrate with unrestrained joy. By raising Jesus from the dead, God says...

Yes

to Jesus' life
to Jesus' teaching
to Jesus' servanthood
to Jesus' kingdom
to Jesus' crucifixion



and God says **Yes** to all of Lent and Holy Week...

- to the REPENTANCE of Ash Wednesday
- to the DISCIPLINE of Lent
- to the SERVANTHOOD of the footwashing
- to the NEW COVENANT of the communion meal
- to the VULNERABILITY of the stripped altar
- to the UNITY of all who are drawn together by the crucifixion
- to the ROUGH HEWN CROSS as the sign of victory
- to the LIGHT which shatters the darkness
- to the BAPTISMAL DYING with Christ



In the Easter liturgy we say YES to God's YES. We affirm - the way of Jesus is the way of God! Baptized into Christ, we follow. Alleluia!