

Palm Sunday April 13th, 2025

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to 'let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church • 1200 W. Cornwallis Road • Durham • North Carolina

GATHERING We will gather in the foyer with our palms before we process into the sanctuary.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW #344

All Glory, Laud, and Honor



Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The prelude's purpose is to prepare your heart, your hands, and your mind for worship. The Lord is worthy of our preparation and the prelude provides us a time to do just that.

Washed in water and marked with the cross, the baptized children of God are united with Christ, and through him, with other believers, we confess our sins and return to our baptism. In forgiveness God raises us up again.

The paraments, which are the hangings on the altar, pulpit, and lectern, are scarlet for the blood of Christ, sacrifice and suffering.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

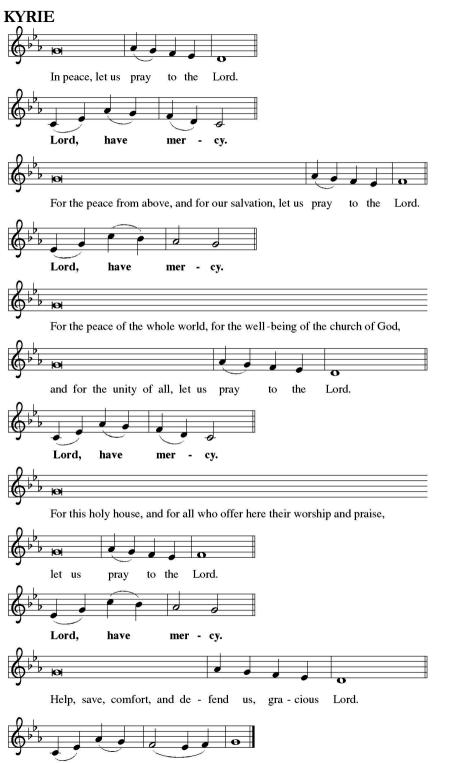
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** The Apostolic Greeting is given by the Pastor using the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Cor 13:13. In this greeting the assembly is rooted in the Triune life of God.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

4 The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. 5 The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. 6 I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

7 The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; 8 he 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 prayer of the day is typically a prayer focused around the scripture texts for the day.

The Word part of our liturgy, is where we hear 'the living voice of the Gospel.'' We experience this in the Biblical readings, a sermon based around these readings, and the hymn of the day.

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

PSALM Psalm 31:9-16 Congregation sings Refrain In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend it. my spir 9 Have 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. 11 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. 12 Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind; I am as useless as a | broken pot. Refrain 13 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. 14 But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O Lord. I have said, "You | are my God. 15 My times are | in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me. 16 Let your face shine up- | on your servant; save me in your | steadfast love." Refrain

SECOND READING Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

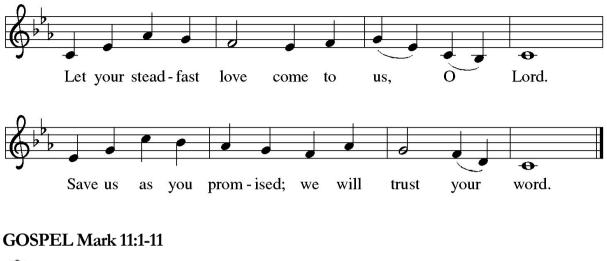
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION DURING LENT

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.





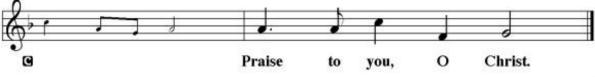
1When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 3If anyone 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. 9Then 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.



HYMN OF THE DAY

#343

My Song Is Love Unknown

182

The Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal. 2:20



- 6. In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth might have; in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was his home, but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
- Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine; never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

8

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

As Lutheran Christians we have three creeds to articulate our faith. The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. Through the Nicene Creed we describe Jesus' humanity and divinity.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence*.

Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need, especially Judy, Greg, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Phyllis, Larry, Bob, Ellie, Mary, John, Pat, Anna, Pat, Susan, Charlie, Wendy, and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy, **receive our praver.**

Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

PEACE

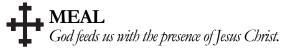
The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation is invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another The assembly sits.

The prayers of interession are prepared in advance by writers from across the Church based around the scripture for a given week.

The passing of the peace is traditionally part of the liturgy, so that anyone in the gathered assembly may have a time to be reconciled to one another before sharing the meal.



OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Electronic giving may be done by simply scanning the QR Code and making a donation.

OFFERTORY Hosanna, Ride on in Majesty Arranged by Anna Laura Page & Jean Anne Shafferman

The assembly stands.

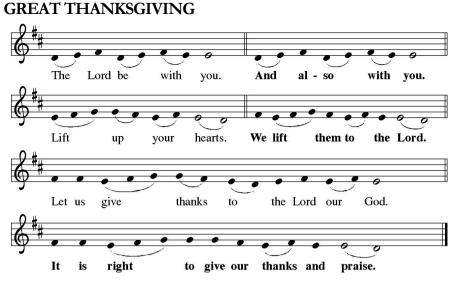
OFFERTORY HYMN



A musical offering is given to God in our worship as the gifts of the assembly are collected. This is a reminder of God's abundance. We offer back to God just a small portion of what God has given us, so that the mission of God can be realized.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together. Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

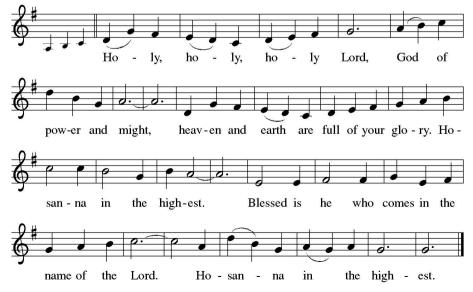


In the meal part of our liturgy we prepare to come to Christ's table. In the Great Thanksgiving we focus on being thankful for all God has done and for all God has given to us. In the Eucharistic Prayer, we ask God to send the Holy Spirit to this meal and we ask that Christ will fulfill his promise to be in the bread and wine.

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. 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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. Come, Holy Spirit. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. Come, Holy Spirit. With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

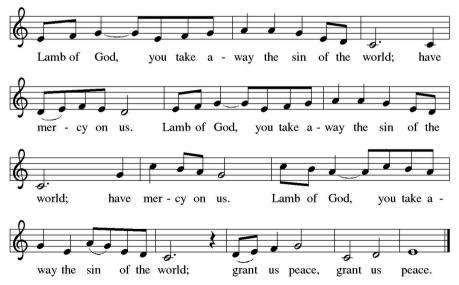
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

LAMB OF GOD



The Lamb of God is a title for Jesus that appears in John 1:29. It is here that we are reminded that our Lord is present and we are to behold his glory.

COMMUNION

This is the Lord's table. Jesus is the host. We are Christ's guests. Jesus welcomes everyone to come, to eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Visitors and children are welcome to receive communion. Those who do not receive communion are welcomed forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. The pastor and communion assistant will come to the pews of those unable to come forward.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Each person may respond: Amen. The assembly is seated. COMMUNION HYMN ACS #1062 Build a Longer Table

ta - ble, Build long - er 1 a not a high - er wall. saf -2 Build а er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail; 3 Build broad - er long - er fence. a door - way, not a 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u gees a broad, mak - ing feed - ing those who room for all. hun - ger, fail. where the find shel - ter, will weak mer - cy not all spar - ing pense. Love pro - tects peo - ple, no ex -Christ be - came God. our door - way to the reign of Feast - ing to geth er, strang - er turns to friend, where is de nied. For an - y place jus - tice When we em brace com - pas - sion more than fear. -So bles wel - come must our ta those who roam. Christ breaks walls false di - vi - sions end. to piec - es; free - ing Christ will breach the jail wall, all in side. Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are here. wel-come clud - ed; None can be ex all must find a home. -

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

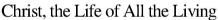
†. SENDING

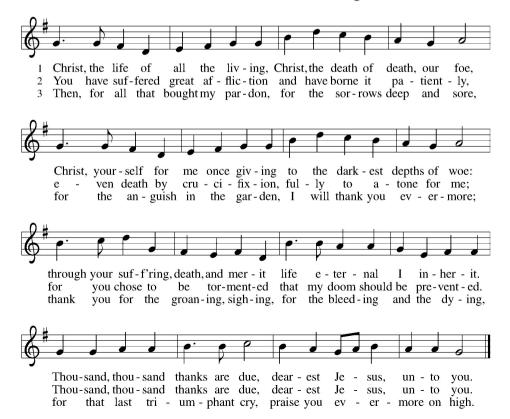
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and \oplus give you peace. **Amen.** Our final part of our liturgy is the sending. We are sent out into the world reminded of God's mission and strengthened by the presence of Christ and one another through the power of the Holy Spirit.

SENDING HYMN #339





DISMISSAL *The assembly is sent into mission.* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Hosanna, Loud Hosanna by J. Wayne Kerr

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"The Mission of St. Paul's Lutheran Church as a part of the family of God is to share God in Christ with the World by equipping one another through worship, learning, witness, service and support."

Congregation Council		
President	Katie Benjamin	
Vice-President	Ken Knudsen	
Secretary	Jonathan Hodges	
Co-Treasurers	John Foreman, Mike Mauriello	
Co-Financial Secretaries	Rod Runestad, Phil Hart	
Council Members	Katie Benjamin, Jayce Getz, Emily Pauline, Ken Knudsen, Michelle Meadors, Steve	
	Myzk, Jonathan Hodges, Bill Gresham, Nicoline Strom Jensen	

Welcome to St. Paul's

In celebrating God's beauty and strength created through diversity, we welcome, value, and include all of God's children regardless of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, ability, appearance, or citizenship. St. Paul's is committed to racial equality.

Admission to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is by invitation of our Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. If you are unable to receive Holy Communion at the altar, please notify an usher to receive communion at your seat. All are welcome at the table for a blessing. We use red wine and bread at communion, and offer grape juice and gluten-free wafers. Inform your server at the rail if you desire either.

Distribution of the Communion Elements take place as follows:

Exit the pew to the side aisles. Empty cups are obtained from the trays located by the front exit. Proceed to the altar. Persons on the right side (lectern side) proceed to the back of the altar rail and fill forward towards the front. The left side (pulpit side) proceed to the front of the altar rail and fill towards the back. After communing, depart down the center aisle to your seat. Please place your cup in one of the baskets.

St. Paul's Live Stream Policy

- 1.St. Paul's Lutheran Church live streams the 11:00 AM service every Sunday. The service is posted to Vimeo and Facebook. In addition, special services may be live streamed.
- 2. The 8:30 AM service is not live streamed and is available for attendance by those who do not wish to be recorded. For live streamed services there will be a "No Video Zone" designated in the Narthex.
- 3. It is recommended that all livestream services include a disclaimer about the service being recorded, posted on a visible location at the entrance of the sanctuary and written in the bulletin.
- 4. Children must have a signed waiver from their parent or guardian before being recorded.
- 5. We will not share personal or identifying information while a service is being live streamed, this includes during announcement, prayer requests, or the sermon.

Staff of St. Paul's		
Pastor	Rev. Scott Anderson	pastor@stpaulsdurham.org
Duke Lutherans Pastor/		
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Minister of Music	Susan Beschorner(interum)	music@stpaulsdurham.org
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Property Manager	Clark Brunner	property@stpaulsdurham.org

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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