

+THE DIVINE SERVICE+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

PALM SUNDAY + 28 MARCH 2021



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgsicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

- ❖ The Rev. Edward Killian, Pastor (mobile) 424.293.6588
- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Leon Tarr, Congregational President

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. **If you are looking for a church home** and would like to know about our beliefs and practice, please see the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience.

Please see more notes on the Service and for the facility below and on pgs 20ff

PLEASE: Upon entering the nave, **silence** should be observed in order to allow all to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the LORD and the reception of His gifts.

Stay Home when Sick

If you are sick or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home. If you start to experience symptoms while in attendance at a service or out anywhere else, please go home immediately, exiting down the side aisle, if possible. If at a service, notify an Usher on your way out so we may direct our cleaning and communication efforts.

Facility and Service Modifications

Until Further Notice Include, But Are Not Limited to:

Narthex: Do not congregate here at any time

Masks: to be worn at all times in the presence of others

Distancing: Please maintain six feet of separation unless in same household.

No food or drink served after the service.

No Sunday Adult Bible Class or Sunday School.

Bulletin: Pick one up for each individual upon entry, maintaining physical distancing from others in front of you.

Hymns and liturgy are complete in the bulletin.

Seating: In any open (non-taped) pew on either side of the center aisle.

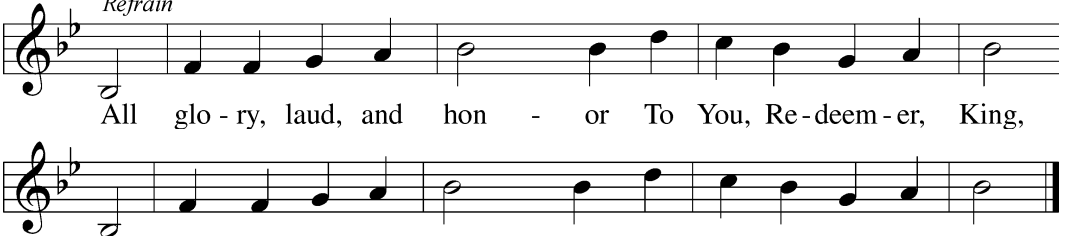
No Tuesday Matins or Bible Class.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor


Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re-deem - er, King,
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

- 1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
- 4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
- 5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.
To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 118:19–29; antiphon: v. 26

- ¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰**This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.**
- ²¹I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- ²²**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**
- ²³This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- ²⁵Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!
- ²⁶**Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.**
- ²⁷The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!

²⁸**You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.**

²⁹Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

This Is The Feast is Omitted during Lent

Kyrie

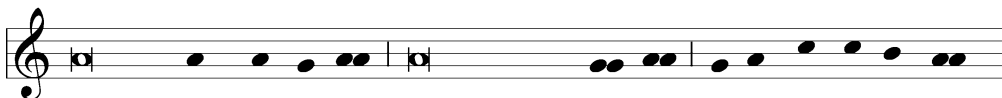
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



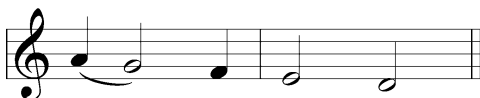
C Lord, have mer - cy.



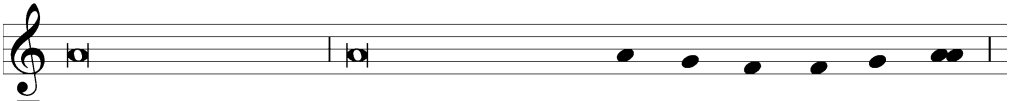
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



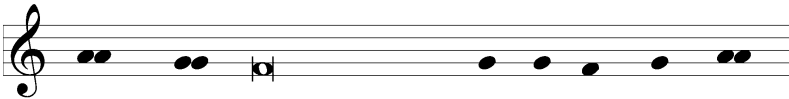
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9–12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from
Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be
cut off,

and he shall speak peace to
the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to
sea,

and from the River to the
ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of
the blood of my covenant with
you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.



P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 31:9–16

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;
my eye is wasted from grief;
my soul and my body also.

¹⁰**For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;**

**my strength fails because of my iniquity,
and my bones waste away.**

¹¹Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,
especially to my neighbors,
and an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.

**¹²I have been forgotten like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.**

¹³For I hear the whispering of many—
terror on every side!—
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

**¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, “You are my God.”**

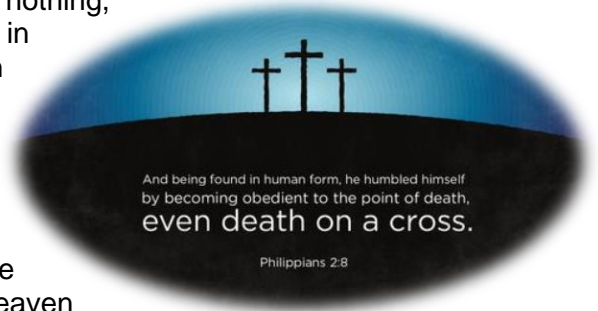
¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

**¹⁶Make your face shine on your servant;
save me in your steadfast love!**

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:1–11

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (Lent)

LSB 173

C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

John 12:12-19

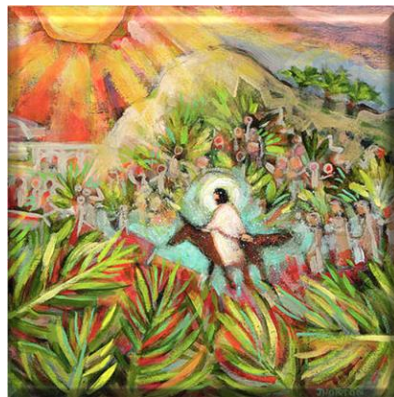
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with



him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

443 [Hosanna, Loud Hosanna](#)



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
 3 “Ho - san - na in the high - est!” That an - cient song we sing;



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.
 The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing And chant - ing clear and loud.
 For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,
 The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state
 Oh, may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
 Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
 And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joyce!

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life **✝** of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

The proper response is "hear our prayer".

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people
according to their needs.

Brief silence

Almighty God, You delivered us from our bondage to the devil when You made us Your children in Holy Baptism. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we would be sustained in the faith that overcomes the world, so that our lips would never cease confessing, with St. Thomas, that Your Son, Jesus, is our Lord and our God. Lord, in Your mercy,

- ❏ Gracious God, Your Son breathed on His disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit, thus ordaining them into the Office of the Holy Ministry, that repentance and the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name throughout the world. Continue to raise up for us faithful men to serve in this apostolic ministry, and bless their service among Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ Loving God, You have gathered us together into the fellowship of this congregation of saints. Bless us with hearts and minds that long for the pure spiritual milk of Your Word, and let us never tire of supporting the gracious work You do among us here. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ Merciful God, remember Your children who have wandered from the household of faith. Faithful to Your promises, work all things in their lives to remind them of their need for Your unending grace and steadfast love, that they might return to the faith and rejoice in Your Son who has died and is risen for them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ Almighty God, You appoint rulers and officials for the sake of order and peace. Bless those whom You have placed in authority over us at the federal, state and local levels. Give to them the desire to serve with integrity and honor and to work for the benefit of all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ Gracious God, look with mercy upon all who suffer in this vale of tears *especially Abai, April, Bob, Brandon, Charles, Cynthia, Dalton, David, Debra, Faith, Gloria, Irmgard, James, Jamesetta, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Katheryn, Lucy, Lynette, Margie, Marie, Marion and her family, Martin, Rex, Rodgers, Stephen, Susan, and Susie* . Provide them with loving and compassionate care, and comfort them with the reminder that everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world and that, believing that Jesus is the Christ, they have life in His name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ Loving God, Your risen Son feeds us with the sweet honey of His body and blood at the holy altar. Bless all those who come to His table this day, that they might be forgiven of all their sins and strengthened in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ Eternal God, we give You thanks for the fellowship we share with all the saints who have gone before us to their heavenly reward. Keep us in that fellowship, we pray, until the resurrection of all flesh when Your Son returns in glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering *Collected in the back of the church after service.*

Stand

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.


Service of the Sacrament

Preface


LSB 177




P The Lord be with you.




G And al-so with you.




P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Sanctus

LSB 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. 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.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My **✝** body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My **✝** blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

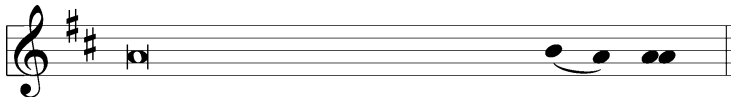
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C 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 mercy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace ac-
 cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

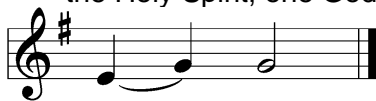


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

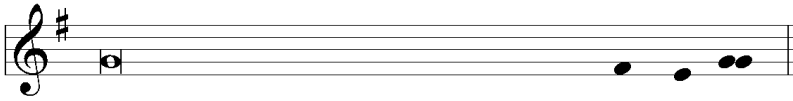
P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction



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



C A - - - - - men.

Hymn to Depart

441 [Ride On, Ride On in Majesty](#)



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the
 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel
 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Thy last and
 5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy tri - umphs
 ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and
 fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on His
 pomp ride on to die. Bow Thy meek head to



sue Thy road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments stowed.
 now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - d'ring eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 sap - phire throne A - waits His own a - noint - ed Son.
 mor - tal pain, Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

Tune and text: Public domain

Hosanna Loud Hosanna

J. Wayne Kerr (B.1988)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book
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✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 36** **Midweek Attendance: 20**

+ We will be ordering **Easter Lilies** this year. If you would like to purchase one, contact Moira in the church office!

+ Although the crosses in your bulletin are not green, they are made from dried palm leaves.

+**Thank you** to those who helped decorate the church for Palm Sunday!

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Maundy Thursday – April 1st at 7pm

Good Friday – April 2nd at 7pm

Easter Sunday – April 4th at 10am

Synod Sentences for the Palm Sunday

The Cross and Passion of Our Lord Are the Hour of His Glory

“Behold, your King is coming to you . . . humble and mounted on a donkey” (Zech. 9:9–12; Mt. 21:1–9). Our Lord rides in this humble fashion because He is entering Jerusalem to humble Himself even to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:5–11). His kingly crown will not be made of gold but of thorns, the sign of sin’s curse. For His royal reign is displayed in bearing this curse for His people, saving us from our enemies by sacrificing His own life. The sinless One takes the place of the sinner so that the sinner can be freed and bear the name *“Barabbas,” “son of the Father”* (Matthew 26 and 27). It is at the name of this exalted Savior, Jesus, that we bow in humble faith. With the centurion who declared, *“Truly this was the Son of God!”* (Mt. 27:54), we are also given to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:11).

Lutherans for Life Thoughts for the Palm Sunday

In the midst of the darkness and forsakenness of that Friday we now call Good, we see God “hiding” in it all, demonstrating His love in a way we cannot comprehend but only apprehend by faith. The passion of Christ assures us that God works in our darkness demonstrating His love, bringing good, and promising never to forsake.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, redeem all our fallenness by Your humility, compassion, forgiveness, and company. Amen.*

Stewardship Thought for the Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9 – “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” No king ever rode to war like this. But no king had ever come to wage battle by dying. In His Passion, our Lord Jesus gives everything He has and is; He does this to bring us from death to life and to make us His own people. And He also does all this to show us an example of self-giving love for us to follow.

A Prayer for the Week

Almighty and everlasting God, You have caused Your beloved Son to take our nature upon Himself, that He might give us the example of humility and suffer death upon the cross for our sins: Mercifully grant us a believing knowledge of this, that we may follow the example of His patience, and be made partakers of the benefits of His sacred Passion and death; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

An Excerpt from Martin Luther’s Sermons

“He not only made himself subject to men, but also to sin, death and the devil, and bore it all for us. He accepted the most ignominious death, the death on the cross, dying not as a man but as a worm (Ps. 22:6); yes, as an arch-knave, a knave above all knaves, in that He lost even what favor, recognition and honor were due to the assumed servant form in which He had revealed Himself, and perished altogether.” *From Martin Luther’s Sermon in the Church Postil for Palmarum.*

A Snippet From 1517

“The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going” (John 12:35b). These words from Jesus in our text stood out to me more than usual this year. The reason is obvious. Things may have changed by the time you read these words, but as I write this reflection (two weeks before Palm Sunday), I suspect we will be walking in darkness for quite some time.

Jesus was not talking about the coronavirus, of course. He was talking about Himself and about reality for those who live apart from Him. But the light/darkness metaphor is always apt for those who live by faith and it is a prominent theme throughout John’s Gospel (see John 1:1-9; 3:19-21; 8:12; 9:1-5; 11:8-10; 12:46). So, without reading present circumstances haphazardly into the text and without taking this half-verse completely out of context, you might consider preaching a Palm Sunday sermon by reflecting on the reality of what we *do not* know. If the pattern continues, we will stumble into Holy Week this year unsure about many things we have been taking for granted for a long time, which is a discomfoting thought, but it is also honest. We may be hesitant to acknowledge it, and we often do a fairly good job of convincing ourselves otherwise, but much of life is unknown. Indeed, *most* of life is lived without knowing exactly what comes next.

The crowds on Palm Sunday were in such a situation. They had gone out to meet Jesus because He had raised Lazarus from the dead (12:17-18). But they did not understand why He had come or where He would lead them. Their disappearance later in the week reveals their ignorance. The disciples were similarly unaware. John explicitly tells us they did not understand what Jesus was doing as He rode into Jerusalem on the donkey (12:16), and this was not the first time John describes what the disciples did not know about Jesus (see 2:21-22). In both cases, they were in the dark until after His resurrection. Only in the light of Easter did they understand who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him.

This could be a helpful connection for your hearers today. More this year than most, we are acutely aware of our ignorance. Like the crowds and disciples at the beginning of Holy Week, we do not know what is coming next. But, also like the disciples in John 2:22 and 12:16, we have heard about Jesus and His resurrection from the dead. We believe, having been lifted-up, He is in the process of drawing all people to Himself (12:32). That is why we continue to gather (in person and on-line) to celebrate such things as Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. We are witnesses of His glorification through His suffering, death, and victory over the grave. Our God-given faith, despite our lack of sight, has made us sons and daughters of light (12:36) who walk in the light even during dark times.

As you consider the questions and fears that characterize your hearers' lives these days, I would suggest you help them begin Holy Week this year by naming and facing directly their present uncertainties. Invite them to identify with the disciples who were in the dark all week long. The disciples did not see the resurrection coming, and as a result they spent much of the week in fear and confusion.

But we know, and you have the privilege of proclaiming, the resurrection *was* coming. Indeed, that it has come! Which means we know where the present situation will lead. We do not know how, or when, or what will take place in the short-term. But we do know, and you will proclaim clearly and confidently, that Jesus has risen from the dead. More than this, He promises resurrection for all who trust in Him. No amount of social-distancing, or quarantining, or stay-at-home orders, or anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the resurrecting love of God in Christ. He has made us sons and daughters of light and He sends us to live in and share His light with a world struggling through darkness and uncertainty. *Peter Nafzger*

Around the Word Devotion for the Week

May be found [here](#)



We Pray For...

Abai: *friend of Bruce&Karina*– guidance and comfort (K)

April: *Karina's cousin* – COPD

Bob: *friend of Beth and Gary* --- diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer

Brandon: *father of Kieran* – recovering from medical procedures

Charles: *Bruce' brother* – heart issues

Charlotte: *Jamesetta's mother, wife of Pr. Kollie* – financial, strength, recovering from surgery(L)

The Dan Conrad Family – our LCMS missionaries in Mexico

Cynthia – our TGSLC shut-in

Dalton – chronic sciatica

David - DD shut-in

Debra: *Jod's cousin* - recovering from cancer

Faith: *friend of Mary* – Stage 4 cancer

The Paul Federwitz Family: *LWML Support* - LBT Support in Ghana

Gloria: *mother of Gayle* – compression fracture in her back; suffers from severe anemia

Irmgard: *friend of Bruce&Karina* – 90 y.o. with heart, lung, and vision issues

Rev. James Kollie: Our Missionary in Liberia; wisdom and strength (L)

Jamesetta Kollie - kidney failure

Jod – peace of mind, attacks from the Enemy, recovery from auto/bike accident, health

Johnathan – strengthening of faith; continued remission

Karen: *Jod's sister* – personal and family matters

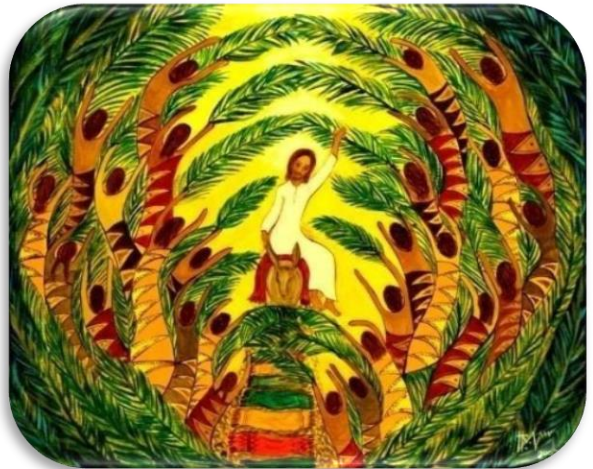
Katheryn: *Karina's mother* - various health issues

Lucy: *friend of Bruce&Karina* – peace of mind, strength, life as a refugee (K)

Lynette – strengthening of faith; chronic health issues

Margie: *mother of Olaf* – recovering from hip replacement surgery

Marie – recovering from surgery



Marion and her family – various health issues around the country; death of sister and niece

Martin: *friend of Karina* – financial, various health (K)

Phillip Magness: our LCMS missionary to Francophone Africa

Rev. Rex Umbenhaur: complications with malignant intestinal mass

Rodgers: *friend of Bruce&Karina* – employment; health (K)

Stephen: *Son-in-law of Pastor&Jill* – diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Susan: *friend of Bruce&Karina* – financial, good health (K)

Susie – recovery from auto accident

The Rev. Tuomo Simojoki Family: our LHF missionary in Kenya – forced to leave their Kenyan home due to SARS-CoV-19 and return to Finland

Rev. Walter Steele – our LCMS missionary to Matongo Seminary, Kenya (K)

(K) – person living in Kenya

(L) – person living in Liberia

Reflections and Notes