

Palm Sunday

Passion Sunday



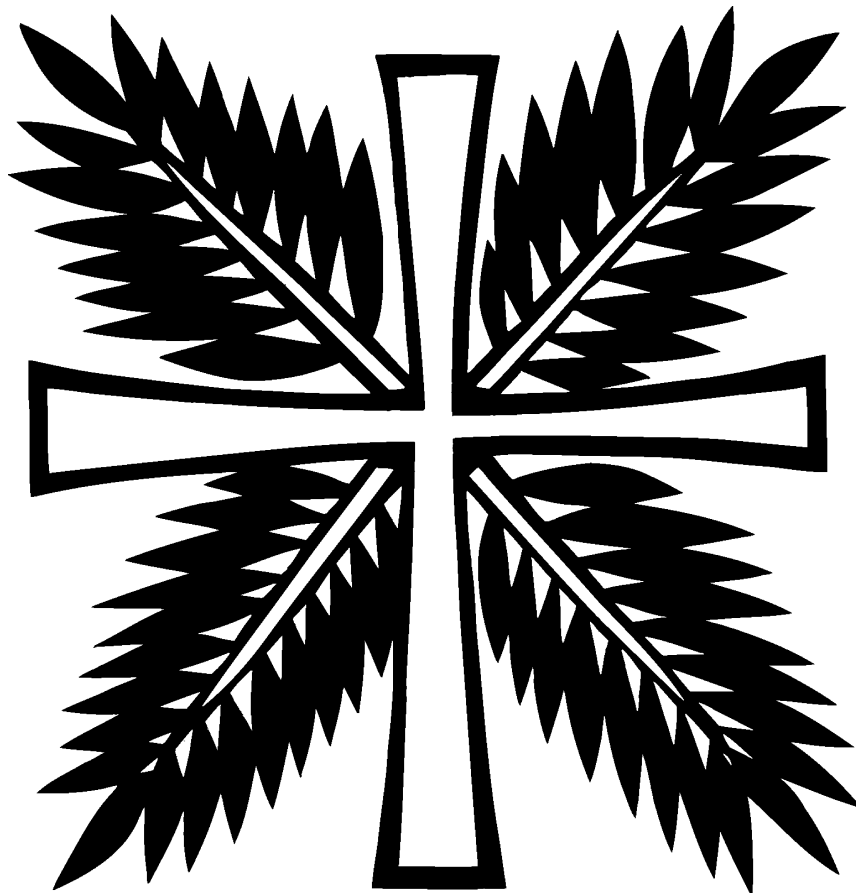
Our Saviour

Lutheran Church

Sunday of the Passion + Palm Sunday

Today's service has two names, because it tells two stories about Jesus: his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and his suffering on the Cross. Although very different in tone, the stories combine to show that the Messiah is a king whose authority comes from self-sacrifice.

This year, we are attempting to tell both sides of the story in a unique fashion, focusing on the Entry into Jerusalem first, and hearing the tale of the Passion only after we have been strengthened by Holy Communion and before we are sent forth in mission.



*Materials for this service are drawn from sundaysandseasons.com.
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Gathering

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

Members of the assembly, including children, gather in the narthex, so that they may enter in procession. Palm branches are distributed before the service begins.

ACCLAMATION

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

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

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

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless + these branches and + those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PROCESSION

The assisting minister addresses the assembly.

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

The assembly follows the ministers into the church.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR (ST. 1, 3, 4) ELW 344

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

3 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. *Refrain*

4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Silence is kept. Then the presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEMS

BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR

*Come Now and Praise the Lord
I've Got Peace Like a River*

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE ELW 805

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In order to preserve the solemnity of the Passion reading, brief announcements may be made here.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

Save your church, O God. Enable us to confess boldly that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip the Lutheran Church, the Virginia Synod, and our own congregation to proclaim your love for all people. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those who are sick (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old, and for those dear to us (*including*). As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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

Amen.

PEACE

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

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

SUNG BY THE ADULT CHOIR

Ride On, O King

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

During this time, the table is set. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

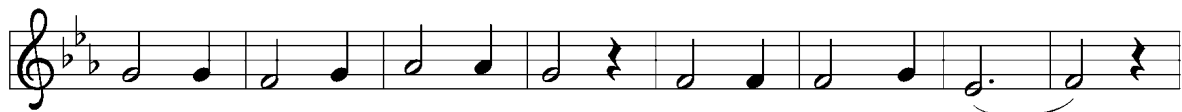
The presiding minister continues:

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:

SANCTUS: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW 190



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

On behalf of the assembly, the presiding minister offers a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:

the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce 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 presiding minister may address the assembly in the words of Psalm 34.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. If you have not been baptized and desire to be, please speak to a pastor.

COMMUNION

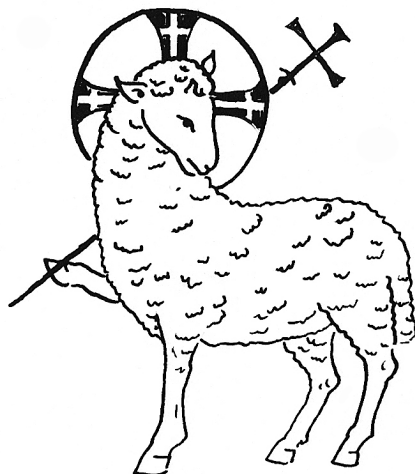
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

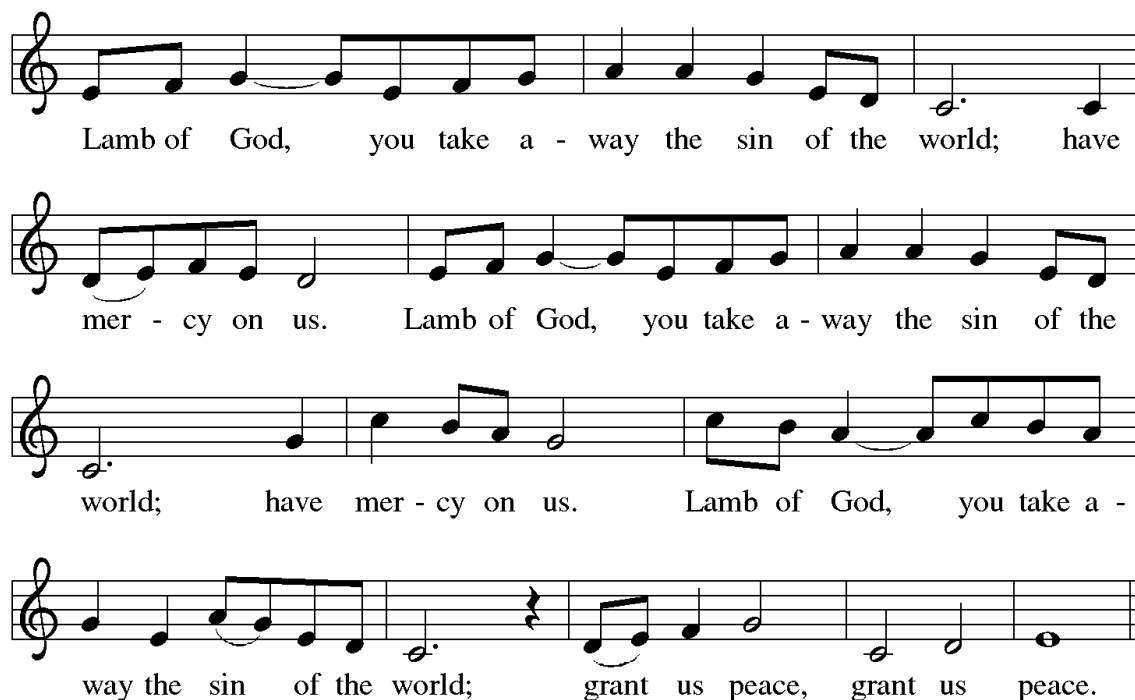
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.



COMMUNION SONG: AGNUS DEI



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

Other music may accompany the communion.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads the following or a similar prayer..

Let us pray.

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.

The Passion

The story of Christ's suffering and death.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: SING MY TONGUE (ST. I; TO PICARDY)

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

1 Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;
sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy,
sound the loud triumphant lay;
tell how Christ, the world's redeemer,
as a victim won the day.

GOSPEL: MARK 15:1-39 (CEB)

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The assembly may sit.

Reader 1

At daybreak, the chief priests—with the elders, legal experts, and the whole Sanhedrin—formed a plan. They bound Jesus, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate. ² Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “That’s what you say.” ³ The chief priests were accusing him of many things.

⁴ Pilate asked him again, “Aren’t you going to answer? What about all these accusations?” ⁵ But Jesus gave no more answers, so that Pilate marveled.

⁶ During the festival, Pilate released one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. ⁷ A man named Barabbas was locked up with the rebels who had committed murder during an uprising. ⁸ The crowd pushed forward and asked Pilate to release someone, as he regularly did. ⁹ Pilate answered them, “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” ¹⁰ He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of jealousy. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead. ¹² Pilate replied, “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?”

¹³ They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

¹⁴ Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done?”

They shouted even louder, “Crucify him!”

¹⁵ Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.

Reader 2

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the courtyard of the palace known as the governor's headquarters, and they called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They dressed him up in a purple robe and twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on him. ¹⁸ They saluted him, "Hey! King of the Jews!"¹⁹ Again and again, they struck his head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt before him to honor him. ²⁰ When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ Simon, a man from Cyrene, Alexander and Rufus' father, was coming in from the countryside. They forced him to carry his cross.

²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place.²³ They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he didn't take it. ²⁴ They crucified him. They divided up his clothes, drawing lots for them to determine who would take what. ²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him.²⁶ The notice of the formal charge against him was written, "The king of the Jews."²⁷ They crucified two outlaws with him, one on his right and one on his left.

²⁹ People walking by insulted him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you?"³⁰ Save yourself and come down from that cross!"

³¹ In the same way, the chief priests were making fun of him among themselves, together with the legal experts. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross. Then we'll see and believe." Even those who had been crucified with Jesus insulted him.

The assembly shall rise.

Reader 3

³³ From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark. ³⁴ At three, Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani," which means, "My God, my God, why have you left me?"

³⁵ After hearing him, some standing there said, "Look! He's calling Elijah!"³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah will come to take him down."³⁷ But Jesus let out a loud cry and died.

A moment of silence may be observed.

³⁸ The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ When the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “This man was certainly God’s Son.”

The gospel concludes:

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

Sending

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

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God’s blessing.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG:

SING MY TONGUE (ST. 4-5; TO PICARDY)

- 4 Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,
be for all the noblest tree;
none in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit your equal be;
symbol of the world’s redemption,
for your burden makes us free.
- 5 Unto God be praise and glory;
to the Father and the Son,
to the eternal Spirit honor
now and evermore be done;
praise and glory in the highest,
while the timeless ages run.

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530-609; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

HOLY WEEK

has begun!



Join us for worship:

Maundy Thursday (28 March)

- *7pm Communion Celebration Service*

Good Friday (29 March)

- *Noon spoken service*
- *7pm sung Tenebrae service*

Easter Vigil (30 March)

- *5:30pm service*

Easter Sunrise (31 March)

- *6:30am Outdoor Morning Prayer*

Easter Communion (31 March)

- *10:30am Festival Service*