

Palm Sunday *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.*



GATHERING

Hymn 264

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God’s peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!



Let ev - ’ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God’s prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God’s word!

Refrain



The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.



O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.



1 Who is the King of glo - ry; how shall we call him?
 2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
 3 Sing then of Da - vid's Son, our Sav - ior and broth - er;



He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of ag - es.
 he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
 in all of Gal - i - lee was nev - er an - oth - er.

Refrain

Blessed Is the One

sung cantor/congregation



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



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est heav'n!

Welcome

Choir Acclamation

Christian Gregor

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

Blessing of Palms

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

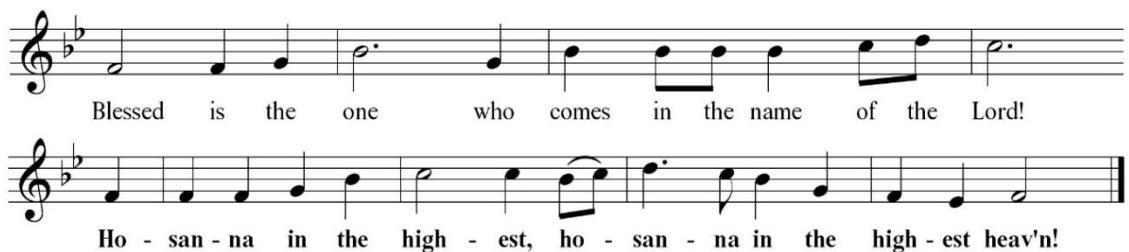
Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*

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

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

Sung cantor/congregation during the procession into the church.



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

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est heav'n!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Hymn 344

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3. To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
4. 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.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.
You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,
now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

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

Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Acclamation

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

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

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience amid persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

A reading from Isaiah. 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 awakens—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 word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-16

choir/congregation



Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

Sung by the choir

Setting by Paul D. Weber

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God
as something to be grasped, but emptied himself in the form of a slave,
born in human likeness. Found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven and on earth
and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God the Father:
Jesus Christ is Lord.*

Children's Message

Stand

Gospel Acclamation Sung by the choir

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

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

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: 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." ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The 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!" ¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

Sit

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand when the hymn introduction begins.

Hymn of the Day ACS 910

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

1. A sta - ble lamp is light - ed whose glow shall wake the
 2. This child through Da - vid's cit - y shall ride in tri - umph
 3. Yet he shall be for - sak - en, and yield - ed up to
 4. But now, as at the end - ing, the low is lift - ed

sky; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and ev - 'ry stone shall
 by; the palm shall strew its branch - es, and ev - 'ry stone shall
 die; the sky shall groan and dark - en, and ev - 'ry stone shall
 high; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and ev - 'ry stone shall

cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, and
 cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, though
 cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, for
 cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, in

straw like gold shall shine; a barn shall har - bor
 heav - y, dull, and dumb, and lie with - in the
 hearts made hard by sin: God's blood up - on the
 prais - es of the child by whose de - scent a -

heav - en, a stall be - come a shrine.
 road - way to pave his king - dom come.
 spear - head, God's love re - fused a - gain.
 mong us the worlds are rec - on - ciled.

Apostles' Creed With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit or kneel

Prayers of Intercession

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

Stand

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

MEAL

Sit

Setting the Table + Presentation of Gifts

Choir

Into Jerusalem

Dakota tune

*Into Jerusalem Jesus rode, triumphant king acclaimed;
palm branches spread to honor his way, garments laid down as tokens of praise;
shouts of "Hosanna" surged through the throng into Jerusalem.*

*Within Jerusalem Jesus stood masquerade king reviled:
thorns made a crown (grim satire of truth), robe like a wound thrown over his back:
echoes of "Crucify" filled the air within Jerusalem.*

*Outside Jerusalem Jesus hung, crucified King despised;
wood formed a cross suspending his life, soldiers cast lots to deal out his clothes;
his lonely cries: "My God"; "It is done" outside Jerusalem.*

Text: Carl P. Daw, b. 1944

Stand

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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.**

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:



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



heav - en 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

Lord's Prayer Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Sit

Invitation to Communion

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask your server.
Red wine and white grape juice are available in each tray.*



Lamb of God

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. A - men.

Communion Hymn 346

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring
pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.
Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912–1993

Communion Hymn 338

Beneath the Cross of Jesus



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me,
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869
 Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

Table Blessing and Communion Prayer

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

A: Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, + bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ACS 954

(next page)

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Sit

Announcements

Dismissal Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

J.S. Bach

Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments and conversation in the fellowship hall following worship.

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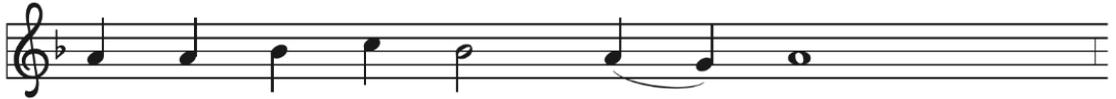
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



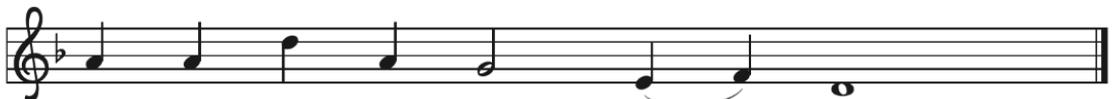
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide.
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 you, who are our death and life.

Commemorations this Week

Sunday, March 29 Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824
Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

Tuesday, March 31 John Donne, poet, died 1631 After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Saturday, April 4 Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589 Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

The comic strip *Agnus Day* is a lectionary-based comic strip. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh. *Agnus Day* is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor who serves as one of the campus pastors at Valparaiso University. *Agnus Day* appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org.



His Blood Be on Us

Today we begin Holy Week, a week filled with paradoxes, reversals, and ironic twists. The story moves inevitably toward death, yet it brings the promise of life. Jesus appears to be the victim, but he chooses this path, humbling himself, confident that God will exalt him in victory. Pilate embodies the full might of the Roman Empire but is powerless before the crowd's demands. The chief priests and elders, perhaps more than anyone else, should recognize the long-hoped-for Messiah, but their jealousy prevents this.

Perhaps the greatest irony in today's Passion reading is found in the crowd's exclamation, "His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matthew 27:25). These words have been misused to slander the Jewish people, claiming they bear the guilt of Christ's blood.

Superficially, that is what the crowd means: Pilate refuses responsibility, so the people take it upon themselves. Theologically, though, the crowd speaks a universal truth. Far from justifying anti-Jewish scapegoating, these words apply to all humanity. Somehow we are all implicated in the death of Jesus. Our rebellion, our sin, places him on the cross.

Paradoxically, however, the crowd's words also reveal a deeper truth. The blood of Christ does not mark with condemnation; it promises forgiveness. It does not stain with guilt; it washes sin away. By accepting suffering and death at the hands of sinners, Jesus wins the victory of love. His blood be on us, indeed! Just as we all share guilt in the crucifixion of Jesus, so too are we all granted mercy by his self-giving death. United in baptism to his death and resurrection, receiving his body and blood in communion, we receive grace, freedom, and life.

In the days to come, do not look at these contradictions as puzzles to be solved. They are mysteries beyond full understanding. But as you contemplate the events of Holy Week, you will discover new depths of God's love for you. May his blood be upon us all, with mercy and salvation.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)