

**Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**  
**Service of Holy Communion – 10:00 am**  
**Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**



**WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE THIS**

**MORNING.** Welcome to Living Lord Lutheran Church. We're glad you're with us this morning. If you are visiting, please sign our guest book located in the church lobby. Restrooms are located down the hallway off the lobby of the church.

*As the music begins please silence your phones and end your conversation with your neighbor and begin your conversation with the LORD.*

+ Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand as you are able.

**INTRODUCTION** *Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

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



**ACCLAMATION**

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

**C:** **Hosanna in the highest.**

**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11**

*An assisting minister or the presiding minister reads the processional gospel.*

**A:** The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup>"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.”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>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!”

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

A: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## **BLESSING OF PALMS**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

P: 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. C: **Amen.**

## **PROCESSION**

*The assisting minister addresses the assembly.*

P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The assembly follows the ministers into the church. “All glory, laud, and honor” (#344) and other hymns, psalms, or anthems may be sung as the people process into the church or once they have taken their places.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*In these or similar words, the presiding minister may introduce the prayer of the day.*

P: 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. (The assembly prays this prayer together...)*

**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.**

*continued on following page...*

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN

## 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 are 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 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals 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.  
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

## WORD

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



### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

### **PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16**

*Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I<sup>l</sup> am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat<sup>l</sup> and my belly.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my<sup>l</sup> years with sighing;**

**my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones<sup>l</sup> are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to<sup>l</sup> my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street<sup>l</sup> they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten,<sup>l</sup> out of mind;**

**I am as useless as a<sup>l</sup> broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is<sup>l</sup> all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to<sup>l</sup> take my life.

<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in<sup>l</sup> you, O Lord.**

**I have said, "You<sup>l</sup> are my God.**

<sup>15</sup>My times are<sup>l</sup> in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who<sup>l</sup> persecute me.

<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up-<sup>l</sup> on your servant;**

**save me in your<sup>l</sup> steadfast love."**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

*L: A reading from Philippians*

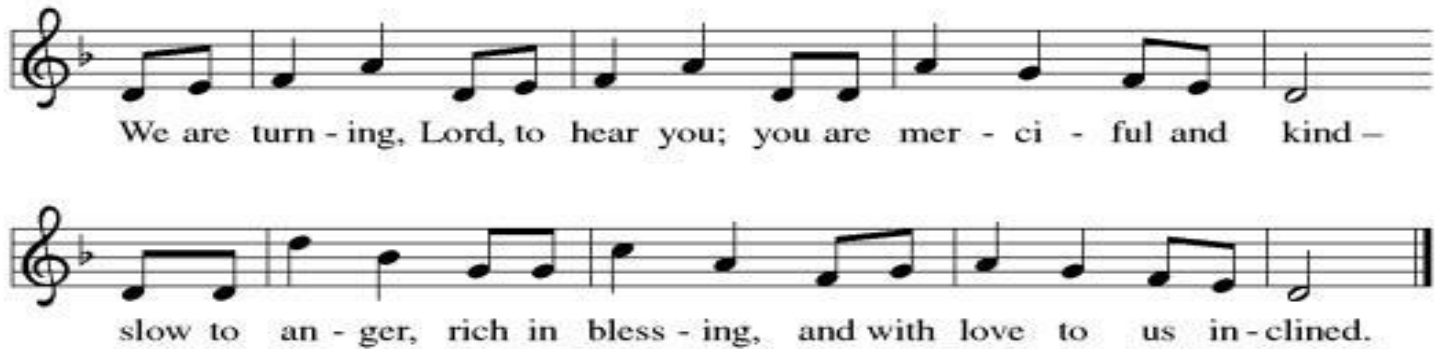
*The reading is concluded:*

**L: The word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

# INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL The Rev. Gregory Shreaves

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -  
slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

*Due to the length of this reading, the assembly is invited to remain seated for today's gospel.*

## GOSPEL: Matthew 26:14--27:66

*In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Were You There"  
ELW # 353*

## +APOSTLES' CREED

**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<sup>(\*)</sup> church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

[ (\*) “universal”; or “whole” church (vs. the Roman Catholic church) ]

*The service continues with the prayers of intercession:*

## **+ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*The prayers are said responsively. The worship leader follows each petition with these or similar words: “Lord, in your mercy”. The assembly follows with “**Hear our prayer**”.*

**A:** The Spirit of the LORD is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*The Presiding Minister concludes the Prayers of the Church at this time...the congregation responds...**Amen.***

## **+THE PEACE**

*The peace is shared by remaining in place and bowing, waving, extending a hand to those around you.*

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*All return to their places. The service continues with the Offering.*

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*



## **THE OFFERING OF THE GIFTS**

*The Offering is received as the Lord’s table is prepared. All are invited to place their offering in the offering plates in the lobby/narthex of the church either prior to entering the worship space, or on the way out of the church. All are invited into quiet reflection as the Offertory is played.*

*The service continues with the Offering Song and Offering Prayer. The assembly is invited to stand as you are able.*

## **OFFERTORY**

## + OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.

C: **Amen.**

## +THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The LORD be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the LORD.**

P: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## + PREFACE

P: 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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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 *(spoken)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Presiding Minister continues...*

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.**

P: And now we pray boldly as our LORD Christ taught us to pray:

## **+LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## **LAMB OF GOD** *(spoken)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## **COMMUNION SONGS**

*After the distribution of the Sacrament is completed, all are invited to stand as you are able...*

**+ P:** The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**C:** Amen.

## **+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A:** 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.**C:**

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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



### +BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: 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 ✚ give you peace.

C: Amen.

*The assembly is invited to be seated for Ministry Announcements...*

### MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly is invited to stand for the Sending Hymn, as you are able. ...*

### SENDING HYMN

*"Jesus Remember Me"*

ELW #616

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### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

**Maundy Thursday**

5:30 pm

**Good Friday**

5:30 pm

**Easter Sunday**

8:30 am breakfast(\*); worship at 10:00 am

(\* *free will offering*)

### GOSPEL MESSAGE

**April 2, 2023**

**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY**

*Parades and Long Walks*

The stories we hear for Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday are marked by a series of parades. The crowd shouts "Hosanna" as Jesus processes into Jerusalem. After his arrest, he is paraded to the home of Caiaphas to be confronted by the scribes and elders. They bind him and parade him to Pilate. The soldiers lead him to the governor's headquarters before he is paraded to Golgotha to be crucified.

These were not celebratory parades. For Jesus, each of these journeys was another step on his long walk toward death. We may not know what it is to be paraded about before crowds of people as Jesus was, but we can understand the long walk toward death.

Perhaps you have taken the long walk from a hospital parking lot to the information desk, from the desk around the corner to the visitors' elevators, and from the elevator through the maze of hallways to the bedside of a loved one to sit vigil as they breathe their last. Maybe you have made the long walk between cubicles to your boss's office during a time of layoffs, knowing what news is coming. The walk from a classroom to the principal's office is long and scary, for both the student and the parent who was called in to school from work.

Life has plenty of long and painful walks we would just as soon avoid. Jesus' prayer at Gethsemane tells us he did not want to take his walk either. And yet he did take that walk. In so doing, he joins us in all of our long and weary wanderings that end in the things of death. Jesus is with us in our deepest pain. But the story does not end there. The journey continues as the women walk to the empty tomb, as Jesus walks with disciples to Emmaus, and as he continues to walk us to places of new life.

### **THANK YOU!**

Many thanks to our readers today, who helped with the presentation of the Gospel!

Alan De Frances

Larry Dougherty

Rick Hill

Clare Kaelin

Kirsten Panachyda

Lila Prigge

Jane Young

**PLEASE!!!** Return the gospel booklets today. Place them in the basket in the church narthex, or give them to Pastor Greg. Thanks!