

✠ **Palm Sunday ~ Sunday of the Passion** ✠  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**March 23 & 24, 2024**

**WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME**

WELCOME to our guests and members as we gather for worship today! **Please place your names in our red "Record of Fellowship" books.** Also, please give attention to the written "News and Notes".

We invite you especially to the **"Three Holy Days"** of **Maundy Thursday, Good Friday**, and the **Holy Saturday Easter Vigil**. They form a complete unit celebrating all that the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us and for our salvation.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

Lord God, we thank You that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to hold fast Your Word in hearts that You have cleansed that thereby we may be made strong in faith and perfect in holiness and be comforted in life and death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**WORSHIP NOTES**

"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming." He comes in gentle humility, "sitting on a donkey's colt," yet also as the King of Israel "in the name of the Lord" (John 12:13, 15). His royal glory is faithful obedience and self-sacrificing service "to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:8). The love of God is manifested in the cross and Passion of His Son for the salvation of sinners. Since He has borne our sins and suffered our death, "God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name" (Phil. 2:9), and He exalts us in His resurrection. Our Lord did not hide His face "from disgrace and spitting" (Is. 50:6), but He trusted His God and Father, who raised Him from death and the grave and exalted Him to His right hand. This same King Jesus now comes to us in gentle humility in His Supper, where He feeds us with His body and cleanses and covers us with His blood, so that "after his resurrection" we also shall rise and enter the holy city (Matt. 27:52-53).

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

*(Please stand and face the back of the Church.)*

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with You all.

**C** **Amen.**

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

**C** **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

**P** Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly loved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **The Palm Sunday Gospel - St. John 12:12-19**

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So 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!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His 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. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So 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.**

P Let us go forth in peace  
C **In the name of the Lord.**

#### **442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

ref 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

2 The company of angels  
Is praising You on high,  
And we with all creation  
In chorus make reply. 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

5 As You received their praises,  
Accept the prayers we bring,  
O Source of ev'ry blessing,  
Our good and gracious King. Refrain

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#### **Collect of the Day**

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

P Let us pray.  
Almighty God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take  
upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross.  
Grant that we may follow the example of His great humility

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.

**C Amen.**

*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.**

*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.**

*Sit*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word  
him who is weary.  
Morning by morning he awakens;  
he awakens my ear  
to hear as those who are taught.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who strike,  
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
I hid not my face  
from disgrace and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup>But the Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.  
<sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who is my adversary?  
Let him come near to me.  
<sup>9</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem – Adult Choir (8:00) – “Hosanna to the King of Kings”**

**Epistle**

*Philippians 2:5–11*

<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the

earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## **Holy Gospel**

*John 12:20–43*

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup>“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. <sup>34</sup>So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” <sup>35</sup>So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup>While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. <sup>37</sup>Though he had done so many signs before

them, they still did not believe in him, <sup>38</sup>so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

<sup>39</sup>Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

<sup>40</sup>“He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their heart,  
lest they see with their eyes,  
and understand with their heart, and turn,  
and I would heal them.”

<sup>41</sup>Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. <sup>42</sup>Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup>for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

### **Offering (10:30) – Solo: “He Looked Beyond My Fault”**

#### **441 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty**

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.  
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,  
With palms and scattered garments strowed.
- 2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin  
O'er captive death and conquered sin.
- 3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The angel armies of the sky  
Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes  
To see the approaching sacrifice.
- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh.

The Father on His sapphire throne  
Awaits His own anointed Son.

- 5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,  
Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

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## **Sermon**

**Offering (5:30 & 8:00) – Solo: “He Looked Beyond My Fault” (8:00)**

*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.

## The Prayer of the Church

### Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### 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.**

## **The Words of Institution**

**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 is My ✠ blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

## **The Peace**

**P** The ✠ peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## **Distribution**

*If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.*

*Please note that "gluten free" communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant "gluten free" when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant "clear" when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.*

## Distribution Hymns

### 438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

- 1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,  
The guilt of sinners bearing  
And, laden with the sins of earth,  
None else the burden sharing;  
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,  
To slaughter led without complaint,  
That spotless life to offer,  
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,  
The mockery, and yet replies,  
"All this I gladly suffer."
- 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend,  
The Lamb of God, our Savior,  
Whom God the Father chose to send  
To gain for us His favor.  
"Go forth, My Son," the Father said,  
"And free My children from their dread  
Of guilt and condemnation.  
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,  
But by Your passion they will share  
The fruit of Your salvation."
- 3 "Yes, Father, yes, most willingly  
I'll bear what You command Me.  
My will conforms to Your decree,  
I'll do what You have asked Me."  
O wondrous Love, what have You done!  
The Father offers up His Son,  
Desiring our salvation.  
O Love, how strong You are to save!  
You lay the One into the grave  
Who built the earth's foundation.
- 4 Lord, when Your glory I shall see  
And taste Your kingdom's pleasure,  
Your blood my royal robe shall be,  
My joy beyond all measure!  
When I appear before Your throne,  
Your righteousness shall be my crown;  
With these I need not hide me.  
And there, in garments richly wrought,

As Your own bride shall we be brought  
To stand in joy beside You.

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### **423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary**

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended,  
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended,  
You have borne the pain of all.
- 2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,  
See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us  
Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us  
Calms the sinner's deep distress.
- 3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning  
To behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never  
From the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever,  
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

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### **420 Christ, the Life of All the Living**

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 2    Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
     Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
     Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
     O Thou sinless Son of God!  
     Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
     From the bonds of sin forever.  
     Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
     Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 3    Thou hast borne the smiting only  
     That my wounds might all be whole;  
     Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
     Rest to give my weary soul;  
     Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
     Blessing unto me securing.  
     Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
     Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 4    Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,  
     Treating Thee with shameful scorn  
     And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.  
     All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,  
     That as Thine Thou mightest own me  
     And with heav'nly glory crown me.  
     Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
     Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 5    Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
     That from pain I might be free;  
     Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
     Thence I gain security;  
     Comfortless Thy soul did languish  
     Me to comfort in my anguish.  
     Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
     Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 6    Thou hast suffered great affliction  
     And hast borne it patiently,  
     Even death by crucifixion,  
     Fully to atone for me;  
     Thou didst choose to be tormented  
     That my doom should be prevented.  
     Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
     Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 7    Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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### **Post-Communion Prayer**

- P**     Let us pray.  
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all  
goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-  
begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His  
sake You have given us pardon and peace in this  
Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children  
but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy  
Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.
- C**     **Amen.**

### **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**     **Amen.**

### **443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

- 1    Hosanna, loud hosanna,  
The little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple  
The lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them,  
Close folded to His breast,  
The children sang their praises,  
The simplest and the best.
- 2    From Olivet they followed  
Mid an exultant crowd,

The victor palm branch waving  
And chanting clear and loud.  
The Lord of earth and heaven  
Rode on in lowly state  
Nor scorned that little children  
Should on His bidding wait.

- 3    "Hosanna in the highest!"  
That ancient song we sing;  
For Christ is our Redeemer,  
The Lord of heav'n our King.  
Oh, may we ever praise Him  
With heart and life and voice  
And in His blissful presence  
Eternally rejoice!

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### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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## **ASSISTING AT WORSHIP**

**Preacher**                      **Rev. Jeremy Hanson**  
**Presiding Minister**       **Rev. Patrick Niles**

**Organist**                    **Sandy Kasten**  
**Soloist**                     **Abigail Hanson**

**Lay Readers**              **Barb Nitsch (5:30)**

### **Communion Assistants**

**Mark Cyr & Richard Zimbal Sr. (5:30)**  
**Bill Lang (8:00)**  
**Brian Hasenstein (10:30)**

### **Student Assistants**

**(A) Alex Ehaney (5:30)**  
**(U) Anthony Grazzini Nack (5:30)**  
**(A) Lauren Cyr & Maizy Boerger (8:00)**  
**(U) Emerson Leibham & Cassi Hanson (8:00)**  
**(Cross Bearer) Isaiah Niles (8:00)**  
**(A) Madisyn Haas & McCoy Michael (10:30)**  
**(U) Tevin Davis & Riley Wesener (10:30)**  
**(Cross Bearer) Connor Barts (10:30)**

### **✂ The Great and Holy Week ✂**

**No Service on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion**  
**March 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm**

**Good Friday worship with Holy Communion**  
**March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm and 7:00pm (Tenebrae)**

**Easter Vigil worship with Holy Communion**  
**March 30<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm (No Bible class)**

**Easter Sunday worship with Holy Communion**  
**The Resurrection of Our Lord**  
**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:00am, 8:00am and 10:30am (No Bible class)**

**Easter Breakfast**  
**Served in the Parish Activity Center**  
**7:00 am -- 10:00 am**