

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday



*He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the
point of death, even death on a cross.*

Philippians 2:8b

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

Welcome to worship on Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion. The acclamation of the people, “Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,” clearly reveal that they hailed Jesus as the Messianic King. Yet only days later, our Lord would hear the cry, “Crucify Him!” This contrast is reflected on this day as the joy of His triumphal entry into Jerusalem gives way to the somber remembrance of His passion. Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon.

Procession of Palms

Greeting

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

Amen.

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

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Collect

Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved 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.

Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 12:12-19

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

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of the Lord.

The Processional Hymn

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Collect of the Day

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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

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. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. 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.

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. 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. Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Gradual

Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a

[Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood,

thus securing an eternal redemption.

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant,

so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

He sent redemption to his people;

he has commanded his covenant forever.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL † ST. MATTHEW 27:11-66

*The congregation joins in the reading of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew by reading together the **CAPITALIZED PORTIONS**.*

The reading of the Passion begins without announcements and the usual responses are not used.

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "**BARABBAS.**" Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "**LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED!**" And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "**LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED!**"

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "**HIS BLOOD BE ON US AND ON OUR CHILDREN!**" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "**HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS!**" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "**THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**" Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "**YOU WHO WOULD DESTROY THE TEMPLE AND REBUILD IT IN THREE DAYS, SAVE YOURSELF! IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS.**" So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, "**HE SAVED OTHERS; HE CANNOT SAVE HIMSELF. HE IS THE KING OF ISRAEL; LET HIM COME DOWN NOW FROM THE CROSS, AND WE WILL BELIEVE IN HIM. HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD DELIVER HIM NOW, IF HE DESIRES HIM. FOR HE SAID, 'I AM THE SON OF GOD.'**" And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "**THIS MAN IS**

CALLING ELIJAH.” And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, **"WAIT, LET US SEE WHETHER ELIJAH WILL COME TO SAVE HIM."** And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, **"TRULY THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD!"**

There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, **"TRULY THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD!"**



Nicene Creed	p. 191
Hymn of the Day	# 441
Sermon	I Am Jesus' Little Donkey
Offering	
Offertory	p. 192
Prayer of the Church	
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Distribution Hymns	# 443, 547, 560
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Benedicamus and Benediction	p. 201
Closing Hymn	# 440 (st, 1-4)

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ's Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public witness that we are in complete agreement with the denomination's doctrinal teachings at whose altar we commune. Therefore, we ask that only communicant members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commune with us. All guests are asked to talk to Rev. Heller before coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament.



In our thoughts and prayers,

- † Joann Dilger (sister of Carol Hartman) and Ernie Riegel;
- † Lorie & Larry Steffen & all the family of Anita Flemmer,
as they mourn her death;
- † Steve & Nona Blaisdell, on the death of Steve's sister-in-law.

Stewardship of Offerings & Attendance

Attendance: 67 Offerings: \$2,826.00

*"If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,'
and he will send them at once."*

Matthew 21:3

Did Jesus really need the donkey? If the man had refused to give the donkey, would the work of salvation have been derailed? Of course not. But what an honor for the man who owned this donkey and foal! Likewise, with us — the Lord needs none of us, but what an honor for God to choose to use our generosity in the work of His church.

Announcements



LWML Mission Mites will be collected as part of our worship this morning.



Easter Lilies: You are welcome to bring lilies for Easter Sunday. They can be placed in the serving window of the kitchen.

It has so pleased God in His wise grace to call from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven our dear sister in the Christian faith, Anita Flemmer. Christian Burial was Saturday, April 1, 2023. *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints (Psalm 116:15).*

During the month of April, donations of paper products will be collected for Women's Action & Resource Center. Items may include paper towels, napkins, bathroom tissue and Kleenex.



The April calendar, birthday and anniversary sheet and April—June "Portals of Prayer" booklets are on the table in the social hall.



PALM SUNDAY

✠ Holy Week at Concordia ✠

Sunday	8:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Divine Service * Mites collection
	1:00 am	Bible Class
Monday	1:20-6:30 pm	Church Directory Pictures
Tuesday	1:20—6:30 pm	Church Directory Pictures
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Catechism
Holy Thursday	6:30 pm	Worship Service
Good Friday	6:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8:00 am	<i>Worship @ Glen Ullin</i>
	10:00 am	Divine Service

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Church: 873-4388
Parsonage: 873-4223
revheller@westriv.com
concordiasecretary@westriv.com

*Please use a pew card to record your worship and/or
Communion attendance this morning.*

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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