

Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Faith Singers: "In Christ Alone"

GATHERING

**Blessing of the Palms*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: 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 palms 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

P: Let us go forth in joy.

**Palm Procession – "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" ELW 344 (organ)*

*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*
- 2 **The company of angels are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals 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 **Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King.** *Refrain*

**Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Jesus came both to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Our readings throughout Lent confront us with challenging teachings, reminding us of our sin and need for God's forgiveness. Together, let us come before God, confessing our sin and resting in the gift that is God's grace.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

**Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

**Kyrie*

ELW Setting 8, page 184 (piano)

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Psalm 118:21-29

Reader: Mike Fenner

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.*
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.*

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Reader: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn of Praise – “Blessed Is the One” (ACS 929)*

(piano)

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

WORD

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-17*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C: 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 fulfil 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.’

¹²Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³He said to them,

‘It is written,
“My house shall be called a house of prayer”;
but you are making it a den of robbers.’

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’, they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, ‘Do you hear what these are saying?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Yes; have you never read,

“Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise for yourself?”’

¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

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

Taizé Song – “Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am” ELW 814 (piano)

**Take, oh, take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Sermon – “A Different Savior”

Song of the Day – “Prepare the Royal Highway” ELW 264 (organ)

- 1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain: **Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

- 2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

- 3 **Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: *Refrain***
- 4 **His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

**The Apostles' Creed*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

**Prayers*

Stewardship Time

“Go to Dark Gethsemane,” arr. Keesecker
Jean Welch, piano

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are gifts of God's grace to claim and sustain us in our lives as disciples of Jesus. Baptism proclaims our identity, that we are beloved children of God, called to love God and our neighbors. Holy Communion reconnects us to the Body of Christ and nurtures our lives of faith with forgiveness and life.

C: **We give thanks to God as we receive this gift of grace anew today.**

**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.

**Words of Institution*

P: 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.

**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.

Communion Songs

“Give Me Jesus” ELW 770 (piano)

1 **In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.**

Refrain: Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.

You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

2 **Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. Refrain**

3 **Just about the break of day, just about the break of day,
just about the break of day, give me Jesus. Refrain**

- 4 **Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus. Refrain**
- 5 **And when I want to sing, and when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing, give me Jesus. Refrain**

“What Feast of Love” ELW 487 (organ)

- 1 **What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**
- 2 **What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!**
- 3 **What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

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

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now” (ACS 930) (organ)*

- 1 **Three holy days enfold us now in washing feet and breaking bread,
in cross and font and life renewed: in Christ, God's firstborn from the dead.**
- 2 **The myst'ry hid from ages past is here revealed in word and sign,
for Jesus' story is our own: new life through death is God's design.**
- 3 **Christ, lifted high upon the tree, before you ev'ry knee shall bend
and ev'ry tongue in praise proclaim: "You are the Lord of all. Amen."**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner

Greeter: Gayla, Debbie, & Ethel

Reader: Mike Fenner

Ushers: Angie & Mike Fenner

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: _____

Chancel Committee: Kim Heise

Coffee Host: Kim Heise



The altar plants are given today by Vicki Robson in memory of Kelly's birthday
and by Judy Dillard in memory of her anniversary

Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth
Marilyn Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Melissa Street
Rigby Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Carol VanderKloot

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Mike Oldenettel	Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, April 2, 10:45am: Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 5, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

6:00pm: Holy Week Soup Potluck

6:30pm: What is Holy Week? Intergenerational trivia, discussion, and games to learn more about Holy Week

Thursday, April 6, 5pm: Parish Worship Committee

7pm: Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 7, 7pm: Good Friday Service

News Updates

What is Holy Week?

Wednesday, April 5: 6pm Potluck; 6:30pm Events

Have you ever wondered what all took place on Holy Week? Did you realize that the gospels don't share the same timeline from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his death and resurrection? What significance does this have for us today? Join our confirmation class on **Wednesday, April 5** for a night of intergenerational fun as we walk through the events of Holy Week with discussion, trivia, and games. Bring a dish to share for a potluck at 6:00 p.m. and stay for the events beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 6 at 7:00pm - "A Different Meal"

Holy Week continues on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. as we gather with Jesus at the Lord's Table for a different meal. For Jesus and his disciples, it is a Passover meal "with a twist." That twist continues to give forgiveness and life to this day.

Good Friday - April 7 at 7:00pm - "A Different Death"

Join us on Friday at 7:00 p.m. for this traditional Tenebrae service. "Tenebrae" means

“darkness or shadows” in Latin. As we read Matthew’s account of Jesus’ crucifixion, the shadows grow long and darkness claims the sanctuary and our hearts. We place nails in the cross to remember Jesus’ death for us. The Christ Candle departs to signify Jesus sealed in the tomb, but returns to give us hope in despair and light in the darkness.

Easter Sunday - April 9, 9:30 am- “A Different Reunion”

Come celebrate the resurrection with us! Matthew’s gospel details a shocking and grand reunion between the women and the risen Christ. It is a reunion that not only gives comfort and cause for celebration, but a promise that God is with us. Bring a friend to worship this Sunday to share with them the good news and welcome them to this wondrous reunion.

Easter Chancel Flowers

We will adorn our chancel with live plants on Easter again this year. To make a donation, mark your check or envelope as “Easter Altar Flowers” and place it in the offering box or mail it to the church office. If you would like to take any plants home for your yard, you can pick them up on Tuesday, April 11, 9:00-1:00.

Youth Easter Breakfast 10:30a.m.

Join us after worship for a delicious meal of breakfast casseroles, coffee cakes, and fruit salad. A free-will donation will be collected to support youth retreats and activities this summer. **If you would like to donate food** (casserole, coffee cake, fruit salad, milk, or orange juice), there is a signup sheet on the counter by the Fair-Trade Coffee sales.

First Communion Instruction

Do you have a child interested in receiving communion? If they are in first grade or older and you feel they are ready for this step in their faith, come talk to Pastor Adam. He will be leading a three-session course that will include teaching, discussion, making chalices, and baking communion bread. The classes will be held in April and May with plans to celebrate First Communion with the congregation on Mother’s Day, May 14.

Music Rehearsal Time Changes

Our Exaltation Ringers and Chancel Choir are trying out a new rehearsal schedule to encourage more to be a part of the music program here at Faith.

Chancel Choir will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays;

Exaltation Ringers on the 2nd and 4th Sundays; all from 10:45-11:15am

I hope to see you on Sunday mornings for rehearsal at 10:45am in the sanctuary!

Jean Welch, *Director of Music*

Conference of Churches Good Friday Service -- Friday, April 7, 11:30am

Central Christian Church (359 W. College) will host this year's community service; the theme is "What Does it Mean to Live in a Community After the Cross." Area Pastors Jared Reno, Becky Williams, Mel Nielsen, and Pastor Adam will participate. The service will also be broadcast live online on the Central Christian Church Facebook page. A free-will offering will benefit the "Camp Courage" of Jacksonville, IL located at the Western Illinois Youth Camp, Lake Jacksonville.

Financial Statements

2022 Financial Statements are available at the tall table outside of the office at church. If there is no envelope with your name on it, please let Pam Devlin know or contact the church office.

Faith Telephone Directory

A new Faith Directory is available in the gathering area on the Coffee Sales counter by the Mission & Ministry Center for all to take home (1 per household, please).

Contribution Envelopes for 2023

will be available soon in the gathering area — the printing has been delayed, but the company will get them to us as soon as they can. **Please be assured all offerings and donations are being correctly recorded in your name.** After the envelopes come in, if you don't see a box with your name on it, please mention this to Barb Davenport, Pam Devlin, or Kris Roth. We will happily provide you with a box. If you would like to register for our easy, **automatic online giving service**, contact the church office. There are no fees, and it saves you from remembering to write that weekly check!

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf & flavored; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate—milk & dark; **\$5.50** coffee pods; **\$6.25** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with "*coffee*" designated in the memo area.