

# Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon Christ Alone Lutheran Church, Ione, Oregon



Today's service begins the journey from the "Hosanna" of Palm Sunday to the "Crucify Him" of Good Friday to the "Alleluia!" of Easter Sunday – quite a spiritual and emotional roller coaster!

May the Holy Spirit bless our worship this day and throughout the coming week.

## Call to Worship

Psalm 24:1-4 NIV

L: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

C: For He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

L: Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place?

C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

**Hymn** #341 vv. 1-2 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

## Palm Sunday Gospel

Mark 11:1-11

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the Eleventh chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

- L: Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you,
- C: 'Why are you doing this?'
- L: say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them,
- C: "What are you doing, untying the colt?"

L: And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting,

#### C: "Hosanna!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

- **L:** And He entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when He had looked around at everything, as it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.
  - L: This is the Gospel of the Lord,
  - C: Praise to You, O Christ!

### **Psalmody**

Psalm 24:7-10

**L:** Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

C: The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

L: Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is He, this King of glory?

C: The LORD Almighty —
He is the King of glory.

**Hymn** #341 vv. 3-5 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

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## The Collect of the Day

L: 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.

C: Amen.

#### **Old Testament**

Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: This is the Word of the Lord,

C: Thanks be to God.

#### New Testament

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 emptied himself, by 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord,

C: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn** #444 "No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet"

No tramp of soldiers' marching feet
With banners and with drums,
No sound of music's martial beat:
"The King of glory comes!"
To greet what pomp of kingly pride
No bells in triumph ring,
No city gates swing open wide:
"Behold, behold your King!"

And yet He comes. The children cheer;
With palms His path is strown.
With ev'ry step the cross draws near:
The King of glory's throne.
Astride a colt He passes by
As loud hosannas ring,
Or else the very stones would cry
"Behold, behold your King!"

What fading flow'rs His road adorn;
The palms, how soon laid down!
No bloom or leaf but only thorn
The King of glory's crown.
The soldiers mock, the rabble cries,
The streets with tumult ring,
As Pilate to the mob replies,
"Behold, behold your King!"

Now He who bore for mortals' sake
The cross and all its pains
And chose a servant's form to take,
The King of glory reigns.
Hosanna to the Savior's name
Till heaven's rafters ring,
And all the ransomed host proclaim
"Behold, behold your King!"

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#### Sermon

# Offering

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

### **Hymn** #441 "Ride on, Ride On in Majesty"

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

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.

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.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on His sapphire throne
Awaits His own anointed Son.

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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### Prayer of the Church

**L:** Lord God, heavenly Father, in Your love and mercy You were determined to overcome our sin by giving Your own Son into death.

C: We cannot fathom the depth of Your sacrifice.

**L:** Grant that we may justly stand in awe of Your goodness in the face of our depravity; Your determination to save in the face of our weak commitment;

C: and Your selfless love in spite of our cold hearts.

— Time for silent prayer —

**L:** Lord Jesus, though You are God of God and very Light of very Light, You became a child of our lowly race, suffered under our spite and injustice, and then became obedient to a criminal's death.

C: You became sin for us.

L: Summon our deepest understanding that we might begin to know what it cost You to save us,

C: and thereby to know Your boundless love.

Time for silent prayer —

L: Holy Spirit, You washed us in the waters of baptism and placed in our hearts the seed of faith.

C: This Holy Week we need Your presence to grow in that faith.

L: Fill us. Move us.

C: Breathe in us Your healing and Your joy.

— Time for silent prayer —

**L:** Lord Jesus, this week as we focus on Your passion and death, You also make us aware of the multitude of needs and joys that surround us.

C: Your Spirit compels us to bring these petitions to You . . .

**L:** (after raising individual petitions) Lord Jesus Christ, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy . . .

C: Amen

### 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.

#### Announcements

# We Transition into Holy Week

**Hymn** #430 v.1 "My Song is Love Unknown" st. 1

My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

## Passion Gospel

Mark 14:1 - 15:47

It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, <sup>2</sup> for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."

<sup>3</sup>And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. <sup>4</sup>There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? <sup>5</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup>But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup>For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. <sup>9</sup>And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

<sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. <sup>11</sup>And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

<sup>12</sup>And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>13</sup>And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, <sup>14</sup>and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup>And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." <sup>16</sup>And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>17</sup>And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup>And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." <sup>19</sup>They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" <sup>20</sup>He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. <sup>21</sup>For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

<sup>22</sup>And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. <sup>24</sup>And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup>Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

#### **Hymn** #430 ν.2 "My Song is Love Unknown"

2 He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would know. But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!

<sup>26</sup>And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>27</sup>And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' <sup>28</sup>But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." <sup>29</sup>Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." <sup>30</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." <sup>31</sup>But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

<sup>32</sup>And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup>And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." <sup>35</sup>And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." <sup>37</sup>And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>39</sup>And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. <sup>40</sup>And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. <sup>41</sup>And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

<sup>43</sup>And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. <sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup>And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. <sup>46</sup>And they laid hands on him and seized him. <sup>47</sup>But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. <sup>48</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup>Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." <sup>50</sup>And they all left him and fled.

<sup>51</sup>And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, <sup>52</sup>but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

<sup>53</sup>And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. <sup>54</sup>And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. <sup>56</sup>For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup>And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, <sup>58</sup>"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" <sup>59</sup>Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup>And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" <sup>61</sup>But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" <sup>62</sup>And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." <sup>63</sup>And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? <sup>64</sup>You have heard his

blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. <sup>65</sup>And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" And the guards received him with blows.

<sup>66</sup>And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, <sup>67</sup>and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." <sup>68</sup>But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. <sup>69</sup>And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." <sup>70</sup>But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." <sup>71</sup>But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." <sup>72</sup>And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

<sup>1</sup>And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole Council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." <sup>3</sup>And the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup>And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. <sup>8</sup>And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. <sup>9</sup>And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup>For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. <sup>12</sup>And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup>And they cried out again, "Crucify him." <sup>14</sup>And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

## Hymn #430 vv. 3-5 "My Song is Love Unknown"

- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
  And His sweet praises sing;
  Resounding all the day
  Hosannas to their King.
  Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,
  And for His death
  They thirst and cry.
- Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight. Sweet injuries! Yet they at these Themselves displease And 'gainst Him rise.
- They rise and needs will have
  My dear Lord made away;
  A murderer they save,
  The Prince of Life they slay.
  Yet cheerful He To suff'ring goes
  That He His foes
  From thence might free.

<sup>16</sup>And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup>And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup>And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. <sup>22</sup>And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. <sup>25</sup>And it was the third hour when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup>So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

<sup>33</sup>And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup>And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, Iema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>35</sup>And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." <sup>36</sup>And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup>And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

<sup>40</sup>There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. <sup>41</sup>When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

<sup>42</sup>And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, <sup>43</sup>Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the Council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup>Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. <sup>45</sup>And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. <sup>46</sup>And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

**L:** This is the Gospel of the Lord,

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

## **Hymn** #430 vv. 6-7 "My Song is Love Unknown"

- 6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

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#### Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21

- L: May the God of peace, Who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will,
- C: and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever.

  Amen.

# Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday (at Bethlehem)
March 28
6:30 p.m.

Good Friday (at Bethlehem)
March 29
Noon & 6:30 p.m.

# **Easter Sunday**

March 31 8:00 a.m. at Christ Alone 10:30 a.m. at Bethlehem

#### **Acknowledgments**

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