

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
March 28, 2021
Pastor Alan Blakeburn
Palm Sunday

[Congregation's responses are printed in *bold* type.]

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in this place, with these people, we begin that week we call Holy.

We crane our necks to see the parade, we will bow our heads as the funeral procession winds through the streets.

We have been with Jesus on this journey; we long for courage to go to the end.

In one hand, we clutch the palm branches; in the other, we cradle our broken hearts.

God of our journey, bless these branches and all who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

As children dance excitedly around him, Jesus humbly enters our lives.

Hosanna! We welcome the kingdom bearer into our midst. Hosanna!

HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

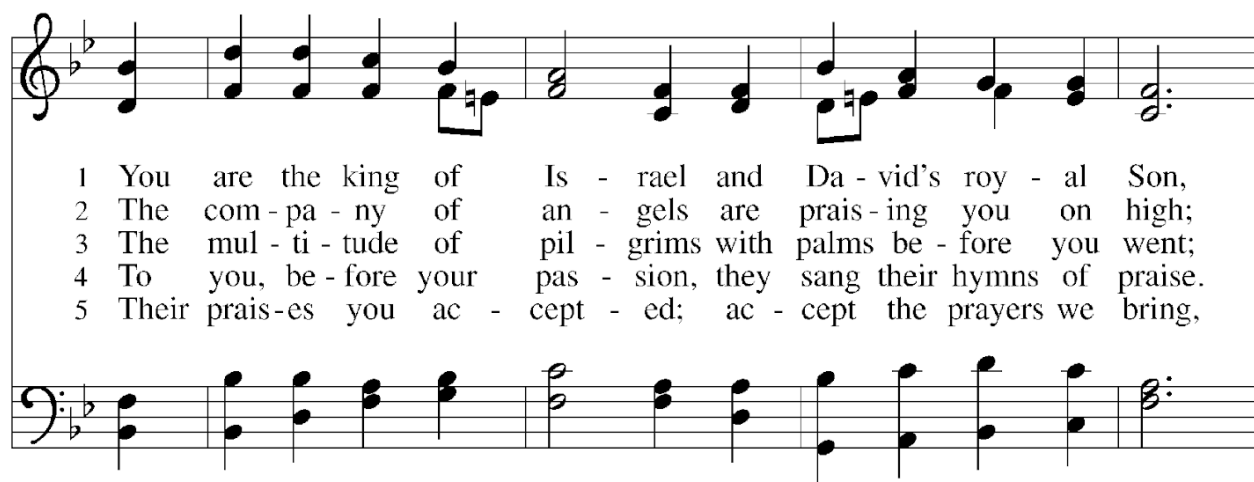
Refrain



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.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the whispering of many — terror all around! — as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

SECOND READING Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

The holy Gospel according to Mark, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” ¹¹Then 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

HYMN

My Song Is Love Unknown



1. My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me, love
2. He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow; the
3. Some-times we threw down palms and sweet-est prais-es sang. Ho -
4. Here might I stay and sing no stor - y so di - vine! Nev -



to the love-less shown that they might love - ly be. Oh,
world that was his own would not its Sav - ior know. But,
san - nas and glad psalms through streets and mar-kets rang. Then
er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like thine. This



who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail
oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
"Cru-ci - fy!" is all our breath, and for his death we
is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
thirst and cry. and for his death we thirst and cry.
glad - ly spend; I all my days could glad - ly spend!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are $\pm$ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends, *Hear us, O God.*

Our response, **Your mercy is great.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Faithful God,
you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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:

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.

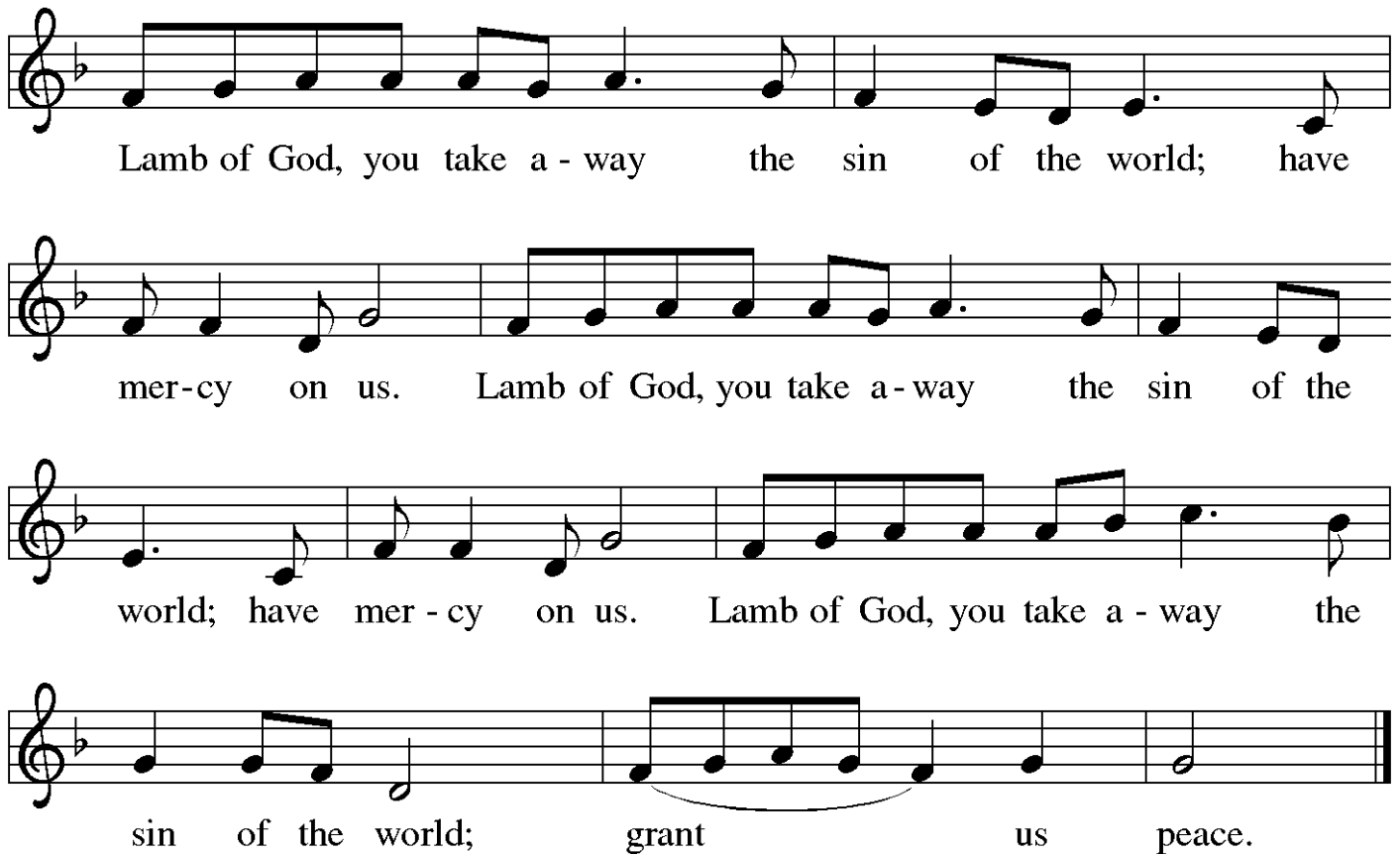
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep
you in his grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God of steadfast love,

at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Gathered by the Spirit

Fed by Jesus

Sent to live God's Love

POSTLUDE

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Music portions of the Liturgy, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Setting 3.

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Texts for Holy Week: **Maundy Thursday April 1**, Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35; **Good Friday April 2**, Isaiah 52:13--53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1--19:42; **Easter Sunday April 4**, Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8

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The attendance at last week services was 13 in Church and 6 on Zoom.

Calendar for the Week

Thursday April 1 – Maundy Thursday service at 7:30pm in Church and via Zoom

Friday April 2 – Good Friday service at 7:30pm in Church and via Zoom

Sunday April 4 – Easter Sunday service at 10:30am in Church and via Zoom

Upcoming Events

Sunday April 11 - For the last few years, we have done Holy Humor Sunday on the Sunday after Easter. This year we have decided that we are not going to have a Holy Humor Sunday but instead we are going to share how faith has helped us to survive the pandemic and what new things it may have opened up for us. Tom Steffen will lead the discussion during the Sermon time; come prepared to share your experiences. Those in the church and on Zoom will be given the opportunity to participate.