**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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**Palm Sunday**

**April 2, 2023, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ’s broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God’s astounding work.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING SONG Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

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| 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. | 1. "Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing, For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heaven our King. Oh, may we ever praise Him With heart and life and voice And in His blissful presence Eternally rejoice. |
| 1. From Olivet they followed Mid an exultant crowd, The victor palm-branch waving And chanting clear and loud. The Lord of men and angels Rode on in lowly state Nor scorned that little children Should on His bidding wait. |  |

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who journeys with us these forty days,

and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another

**our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,

so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

☩ forgives you in Christ’s name,

and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**CHILDREN’S SONG I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N**

**I am a C,**

**I am a C-H,**

**I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N, and I have C-H-R-I-S-T, in my H-E-A-R-T,**

**and I will L-I-V-E E-T-E-R-N-A-L-L-Y.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29**

Text, whiteboard

Description automatically generated 1O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
 his steadfast love endures forever!  
**2Let Israel say,  
 "His steadfast love endures forever."** 19Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
 that I may enter through them  
 and give thanks to the LORD.  
**20This is the gate of the LORD;  
 the righteous shall enter through it.** 21I thank you that you have answered me  
 and have become my salvation.  
**22The stone that the builders rejected  
 has become the chief cornerstone.** 23This is the LORD's doing;  
 it is marvelous in our eyes.  
**24This is the day that the LORD has made;  
 let us rejoice and be glad in it.** 25Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!  
 O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!  
**26Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.  
 We bless you from the house of the LORD.** 27The LORD is God, and he has given us light.  
 Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.  
**28You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
 you are my God, I will extol you.** 29O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
 for his steadfast love endures forever.

**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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Tree of Life**

**Return to the Lord, your God,**

**who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,**

**and abounding in steadfast love,**

**and abounding in steadfast love.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11**

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 fulfill 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **All Glory, Land and Honor ELW 344**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**A close-up of hands shaking

Description automatically generated with medium confidencewas crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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 OF INTERCESSION**

…Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in April*** *(collected in a special envelope) will go to* ***PDC – Orenda Center****. PDC is dedicated to the safety and empowerment of those impacted by domestic abuse and sexual assault. Our mission is to assist those in distress by identifying options and resources, promoting safety, building hope, and strengthening individuals, families, and our community through case management, advocacy and education.*

**OFFERING SONG Ride On, Ride On in Majesty! ELW 346**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of good gifts,

receive these and all our offerings

as we present them in faithful service

for the sake of your gospel.

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal

as you pour out your very presence

through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**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 our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sung) Tree of Life**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

A close-up of some leaves

Description automatically generated with low confidencebroke 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.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE 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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,

empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

God, the giver of love,

☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth

bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

**SONG Lead On, O King Eternal! ELW 805**

**DISMISSAL**

**Diagram

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**Thanks be to God.**

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | |
| April 2 | Ruth & Ed Raatz | Leslie Mader | Dan & Pam Mundt | Pam Mundt | May Hill |
| April 9  Easter | Brett & Breanna Butler | Andrea Hovick | Dave & Sue Schraeder | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill |
| April 16 | Ben & Jannalee Lindquist | Julie Will | Bruce & Nancy Tibbett | Nancy Leonard | Breanna Butler |
| April 23 | Ron Rothfusz | Shelly Schneider | Bob & Laurel Peterson | Robin Beeman | Dave Schneider |

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Monday, April 3 | 10:30-11:30 am | Bible Study by the fireplace |
| Tuesday, April 4 | 9:30-10:30 am | Children’s of WI playgroup – all parents & children under 4 welcome |
|  | 6:00 pm | Executive Committee Meeting |
|  | 7:00 pm | AA meeting in the fellowship hall |
| Thursday, April 6 | 12-2:00 pm | Purple Angels Memory Cafe |
|  | 7:00 pm | Maundy Thursday Service  First Communion for 3rd grade students |
| Friday, April 7 | 7:00 pm | Good Friday Service |
| Sunday, April 9 | 9:00 am | Easter Worship Service   * Sweet Treats provided by council members following worship |

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**Christ in Our Home** daily devotional booklet is available in the church entrance for April, May, & June.  
  
***Spark*** children's magazine and ***Living Lutheran***magazine are available in the entrance of the church.