**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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| Pastor: Rev. Katie Anderson | Music Director: Rev. Lois Swanson |
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**Palm Sunday**

**March 24, 2024, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

As Holy Week begins, Peter is no longer front and center, and so we imagine he is with the rest of the disciples when Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt. As they witness crowds shouting hosannas, the disciples are confused. When they look back on this experience, perhaps they will remember the songs. The singing is surely etched in their memories. As we imagine ourselves in the crowd on this day, may we remember that they are supposed to be praising Caesar, but instead they are shouting for the one entering the city on a donkey. Their singing is subversive, courageous, and contagious. Their praise shows the ripple effect of public displays of faith.

**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**

Holy God,

**We want to run into the streets and sing your praise!**

**We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel.**

****However, we too often find ourselves standing against the wall.**

**Too often we stay quiet.**

**Too often we let others carry the song.**

**Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade**

**but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines.**

**Show us which songs are ours to sing.**

**Show us which parades are ours to lead,**

**and then give us the courage and conviction to do both.**

**With hope and honesty we pray.**

**Amen.**

Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—

whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—

Jesus marched for you.

Jesus’ love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you.

You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that.

So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones:

We have reason to sing,

for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday.

Jesus Christ loves you today.

And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow.

You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve.

Go out and sing.

Go out trusting these words.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**God of grace, your Wod is like a song. It is the melody that we long to sing, the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads. As we return to scripture once more, we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song. Allow us to hear the truth between the words. Allow the cries of the crowd’s “hosannas” to feel like our own. With open hearts and ears we pray. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC Be Still and Know ACS 1083**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**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 wakens—  
  wakens 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.

Text, whiteboard

Description automatically generated7The 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.  
 9aIt is the Lord God who helps me;  
  who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16**

9Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;  
  my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.  
 10**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**  
  **my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**  
 11I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;  
  when they see me in the street they avoid me.  
 12**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;**  
  **I am as useless as a broken pot.**  
 13For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;  
  they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.  
 14**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.**  
  **I have said, “You are my God.**  
 15My times are in your hand;  
  rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.  
 16**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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ACS pg. 15**

**GOSPEL: John 12:12-16**

12The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,  
 "Hosanna!  
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord —  
 the King of Israel!"  
14Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:  
 15"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.  
 Look, your king is coming,  
 sitting on a donkey's colt!"  
16His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Songs Of Loudest Praise**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **Ride On, Ride On in Majesty! ELW 346**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,**

**Who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey.**

**We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,**

**A close-up of hands shaking

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceWho challenged Rome’s oppressive power with peaceful protest.**

**We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,**

**Who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers.**

**We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,**

**So even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise.**

**Hosanna!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

…Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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 March*** *(collected in a special envelope) will go to* ***Marshfield Area Respite Care Center.***

**OFFERING SONG Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW 807**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life

and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered

that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food

but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

**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 ACS pg. 20**

**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;

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.

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**

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

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BENEDICTION**

Beloved wanderer,

as you leave this place,

may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.

**Diagram

Description automatically generated**May you look for God in every face.

May you find the courage to get out of the boat,

to run to the tomb,

and to speak of your faith.

And when the world falls apart,

may you hear God’s voice deep within,

saying, “Take heart, it is I, be not afraid.”

You are called.

You are blessed.

In both your ups and your downs,

you always belong to God.

Go now in peace.

Go trusting that good news.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN In the Cross of Christ I Glory ELW 324**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | | **Deep Clean** |
| March 24 | Gene & Linda Schrieber | Leslie Mader | Dave & Sue Schraeder | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill | March:  Nancy Lenard  Jannalee Kolbeck Lindquist  Heidi Binder |
| March 31  Easter | Dave & Kami Weis | Kris Tarter | Ron Rothfusz  Andrea Hovick | Nancy Leonard | Breanna Butler |
| April 7 | Brett & Breanna Butler | Shelly Schneider | John Wagner  Nancy Leonard | Robin Beeman | David Schneider | April:  Julie Will  Deb Janz  Chris Tipping |
| April 14 | Nancy Leonard | Tammy Neumann | Dave & Shelly Schneider | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis |

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Sunday, March 24 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Palm Sunday * John 12:12-16; Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem |
| Tuesday, March 26 | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Thursday, March 28 | 7:00 pm | Maundy Thursday Worship |
| Friday, March 29 | 12:00 pm | Ecumenical Good Friday Worship at Faith Lutheran Church |
|  | 7:00 pm | Good Friday Worship |
| Sunday, March 31 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Easter Sunday * Luke 24:1-12; Jesus’ resurrection |

We are seeking two delegates to attend the Synod Assembly, June 7-8 in Eau Claire. This year is a bishop’s election, so you will help shape synod leadership for the next several years! The synod specifies we need one lay male and one lay female to attend.

**People of God, for what else do we pray?**

Lent is a season to focus on prayer. No prayer is too big or too small. You are welcome to use the post-its and pens on the back table to share your prayer concerns, gratitude, celebration, and anything else on your heart.

A group of people standing in a row

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**Holy Week Schedule**

**Sunday, March 24**

9:00 am: Palm Sunday Worship

**Thursday, March 28**

7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday

**Friday, March 29**

12:00 pm: Ecumenical Good Friday Worship at Faith Lutheran Church

7:00 pm: Joint Good Friday Worship at GSLC with Faith Lutheran

**Sunday, March 31**

9:00 am: Easter Sunday Worship

A cross with red ribbons on it

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**Easter Garden Donations**

Good Shepherd altar care will soon be purchasing a variety of plants and

decorations for the Easter Garden and Outdoor Summer Services.

If you would like to make a donation, fill out the form on the table in the

narthex and place it with your check with Easter Garden in the memo line in

the offering plate or on the desk in the office.



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SOS has provided their list of needs for this month, which includes:

Kidney Beans, Baked Beans, Sandwich Bags, Chicken Noodle Soup, Dish Soap, Oatmeal, Jelly, Gravy,Pudding, Broth, All Purpose Cleaner, Shampoo, Conditioner, Pancake Mix, Baking Items, Paper Towels, Dried Soup. **Urgently need: canned Stew, Jelly and canned meats.**

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A poster for a church

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A poster for a spring event

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During the season of Lent as we explore Peter’s faith journey, we consider our own faith journey as well. Today, we consider how we would summarize our lives. What are the key themes that have shaped us, and have there been times when it is only through reflection that we realize the significance of some events?