

PALM SUNDAY
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
APRIL 13, 2025 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

Prelude *“The Palms”*

THE GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

(Please stand.)

Gathering Litany

P Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

C **Hosanna in the highest!**

P Blessed is the coming kingdom!

C **Hosanna in the highest!**

Processional Gospel Luke 19:35-40

P They brought the colt of a donkey to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

C **As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.**

P As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

C **Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!**

P Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” Jesus answered them:

C **“I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout.”**

Response

P Blessed is the coming kingdom of God!

C **Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna!**

Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **And also with you.**

Opening Prayer

- P Lord Jesus Christ, over the broken glass of our world, the rumors meant to hurt, the prejudice meant to wound, the weapons meant to kill, ride on...trampling our attempts at disaster into dust. Ride on.
- C **Ride on in majesty!**
- P Lord Jesus Christ, over the distance which separates us from you, and it is such a distance, measurable in half-truths, in unkept promises, in second-best obedience, ride on... until you touch and heal us. Ride on.
- C **Ride on in majesty!**
- P Lord Jesus Christ, over the back city streets, through the forgotten places, where human life festers and love runs cold, ride on...brining hope and dignity where most send scorn and silence. Ride on.
- C **Ride on in majesty!**
- P We praise you, O God, for redeeming a broken world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross and in the way of love.
- C **Ride on in majesty and take us with you. Amen.**

Gathering Song *"Blessed Is the One"*

*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.*

Prayer of the Day

- P 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.
- C **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The Gospel Luke 23:1-12

Narrator: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”

Pilate: Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus: You say so.

Pilate: I find no basis for an accusation against this man.

Narrator: But they were insistent and said, “He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Scripture Response Isaiah 50:4-9a

The 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. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I 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. The 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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

The Gospel Luke 23:13-25

Narrator: Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people.

Pilate: You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.

Congregation: Away with him! Release Barabbas for us!”

Narrator: (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

Congregation: Crucify, crucify him!

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.

Narrator: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified;

Congregation: Crucify him! Crucify him!

Narrator: And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Scripture Response: 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.

The Gospel Luke 23: 26-46

Narrator: As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

Jesus: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

Narrator: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Jesus: Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

Narrator: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

Congregation: He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!

Narrator: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine. They said,

Congregation: If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!

Narrator: There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."
One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

Criminal 1: Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

Criminal 2: Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus: Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

Song *"Jesus, Remember Me"*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The Gospel Luke 23:44-46

Narrator: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

Jesus: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Narrator: Having said this, he breathed his last.

The Gospel Luke 23:47-49

Narrator: When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this

spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Scripture Response: Philippians 2:5-11

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

P Word of God. Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day “The Stone”

*The stone is rolled to seal the grave,
the soldiers stand to guard the door;
the years of hope, the hearts of faith,
cold as the tomb, dead as their Lord.*

*The tears of anger and regret,
the cock has crowed, the traitor fled;
disciples frightened and confused,
where once was peace, now only dread.*

*Where can they go, where can they run?
His words were true, eternal life;
yet even Christ has felt death's sting,
sin's curse extinguishing love's light.*

*We stand with them, with the bereaved,
stand with the broken, torn and bruised;
we hold our doubts, our tears, our pain,
and, by our nails, hold to the truth.*

*There is a sun we cannot see,
a resurrection yet to dawn,
a hope that holds us through the night,
a path that leads to Easter morn.*

Prayers of the People

- A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.
- A Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**
- A Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**
- A Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**
- A Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering. God, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**
- A Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**
- A We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. God, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**
- A Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
C **Amen.**

Sharing of Peace

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

(Please be seated.)

THE MEAL

Invitation to the Offering

P God has given us his only Child, Jesus Christ, as the way of our salvation. Let us then give generously as God has given to us.

Offering

(Please stand.)

Special Music “*Lamb of God*” (*Your Only Son*)

Offertory Song “*For the Beauty of the Earth*”

*For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:*

Refrain

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: Refrain*

Offertory Prayer

A Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

The 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.**

P Holy God, you created the heavens and the earth, sea and dry ground, creeping things and flying birds, mountains and plains, desert sands and forest canopies. We praise you for such wonder. In love and freedom, you gave us your blessing to eat from every plant and from the fruit of the trees. In return for your generosity and abundance, we grasped for more than you gave us, separating ourselves from you through sin.

Yet even when we were unfaithful, you remained faithful to us. When we were bound as slaves, you gave us freedom by opening a pathway through the sea. When we complained in the desert, you gave us water to drink and manna to eat. When we wandered from your ways, you sent prophets to call us back and give us hope.

Then in the fullness of time, you sent your Son to save us. Jesus preached and healed; he taught and challenged us; he loved and encouraged us. Yet our songs of praise became shouts of death. Palm branches lifted high in honor were left in the dust. At the cross, when we turned away, he offered forgiveness and eternal life. We thank you for such a wondrous love as this. A love we receive at this table.

On 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. As Christ broke bread in that upper room and shared the cup with his disciples, so may this meal be our communion in the body and blood of Christ. Strengthen us in the days of the holy week before us, and for all the days to our life's end, to recognize this one who comes humbly and so to follow him. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
C **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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

"Lamb of God"

*Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, grain of wheat, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, sinner's friend, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us your peace.*

"There in God's Garden"

*There in God's garden
stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth
the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge,
Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.*

*Its name is Jesus,
name that says, "Our Savior!"*

*There on its branches
see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils
of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.*

*Thorns not its own
are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it,
our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! it lives!
its grief has not destroyed it
nor fire consumed it.*

*All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!*

Special Music “*The Old Rugged Cross*”

(Please stand.)

Communion Blessing

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

Prayer After Communion

A Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

- P God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Sending Song “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

*Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

Dismissal

- A The choice has been made, the way chosen, the clash between humanity and love comes to a head. Let us join the journey and share the story of a God who can give no more so gives himself. Go in peace. Christ is with you.
- C **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| MariLynn Bergmark | Monica Johnson | Misty Pounder |
| Sharon Bolerjack | Pat Johnson | Brilee Robbins |
| Hazel Brant | Caty K | Ken Rose |
| Scott Browne | Zepplyn Killmer | Frank Roy |
| Evelyn Cahill | Lenny Kobilca | Ben Sabourin |
| Anthony Campagna | Carrie Koon | George Scheel |
| Tom Casey | Rev. John Lang | Bernie Schroeder |
| Gary Cobbett | Nancy Lang | Tim Schroeder |
| Sidney Colburn | Sue Lucheon | Virginia Schroeder |
| Jim Connelly | Scott Lundgren | Josh Shaw |
| Beau Dowling | Dede Machowski | Sharon Skopec |
| Maggie Driscoll | Ashley Maestre | Gene Sobba |
| Finley Engnell | Hanna Mau | Gary Sperka |
| Elwood Faulhaber | Jim McKeever | Burt Swartz |
| Judy Faulhaber | Ruth Ann Miller | Dom Thielmann |
| Abby Galvin | Omni Rook Myers | Kayley Koter Taddeo |
| David Gilchrist | Linda Nelson | Chuck Vlcek |
| Chriss Hassel | Jane Nilles | Cindy Vorel |
| Mike Hoffman | Dave Nommenson | Kyle Williams |
| Bob Hoster | Charlotte Pohlman | |

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For those we name in our hearts, and for those who have not yet found Jesus.

Acknowledgements

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The Palms by Faure

Opening Prayer adapted from "Stages on the Way" by John L. Bell

Blessed Is the One Text: Psalm 118:26

The Stone © Sam Hargreaves / RESOUNDworship.org, Administered by The Jubilate Group

Lamb of God (Your Only Son) by Twila Paris

Jesus, Remember Me Text © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.

For the Beauty of the Earth Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

Lamb of God from Lent Communion Rite: Take, O Take Me as I am Music by John Bell. Adapted/arranged by Tony Alonso. Published by GIA Publications

There in God's Garden Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590-c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982

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The Old Rugged Cross

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Pam Laasch and John Howell

ACOLYTES — Madelyn Dixon and Evan Parker

MUSICIANS — Sandy Doebert, Doug Freehauf, Sue Gray and Shawn Salmon

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

HOLY WEEK

We invite you to join us as we remember the last days of Jesus' life: the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the meal he gave us to remember him, his sacrificial death, and the glorious dawn of resurrection!

Maundy Thursday – April 17 at 7pm

Good Friday – April 18 at 7pm

Easter Sunday – April 20 at 10:30 with Easter Breakfast at 9am

SNEAKER RECYCLING

Reflecting on our Lenten theme “For the Beauty of the Earth”, we will be partnering with GotSneakers to eliminate footwear waste in our landfills. Your donated used sneakers & cleats will be either repurposed or recycled, helping you declutter your home while at the same time being kind to the environment. We will have donation bins available at the back of the church and will be collecting thru the end of April. Please feel free to spread the word & happy spring cleaning!

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Daniel & Gisela Rittenhouse, Rebecca Zintak, Al & Cele Albrecht, St. Alphonsus – St. Patrick School, Elsie Schultz, Christine Zielke, St. Joseph's Table, Joseph & Jeanette Zuzich, Steven & Linda Barton and Jeanette Mines.

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