

### **Welcome to Our Celebration of Worship**

*To all who live joyfully and wish to share their excitement...to all those who mourn and need comfort...to all who are weary and need rest...to all who are homeless and desire sheltering love... to all who pray and to those in need of prayer...to all who sin and need a Savior...to all who recognize Christ in their midst and hunger to share God's love with all the world, this church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says...WELCOME!*

*\*Those who are able, please stand in body or spirit.  
(The congregation is invited to join in speaking or singing **items in bold.**)*

### **We Gather in Community before God**

PRELUDE *Improvisation* K. Friese

*Please use the prelude as a time to prepare our hearts and minds to worship God together.*

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM Matthew 21:1-11

\*HYMN (See Insert) *All Glory Laud and Honor*

*During the hymn, the congregation is invited to celebrate the triumphal entry of our Lord into Jerusalem by waving their palms high in the air. The Kids' and Youth Choirs, along with the Sanctuary Choir, will join together in processing into the sanctuary.*

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus comes as Lord and King; not riding a horse of power, but a donkey of humility.

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

The people line the streets with joy; laying down their garments and praising God.

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

If the people keep quiet – then or today – even the stones will cry out in joyful praise.

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

Joining with the choirs of God's faithful children, let us joyfully worship God together.

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

INTROIT *Antiphonal Hosanna* G. Alan Smith  
Kids' / Youth / Sanctuary Choirs



**Maundy Thursday**  
(Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm)



*Join us as we celebrate Jesus' final act of humility as he kneels to wash the feet of his disciples, gather around the Lord's Table as we share in recreating our Lord's final meal among friends, and remember the betrayal and arrest of our Savior.*



**Good Friday Tenebrae Service**  
(Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm)



*Join us for an inspiring service of worship as we share the arrest, trial, suffering, crucifixion, and death of our Lord Jesus Christ through Scripture, music, and candlelight. Our Good Friday worship invites us to consider the reality of our own sinful lives and the role each one of us continues to play in the life, death, and resurrection of our Christ.*



**Easter Sunday**  
(Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am)



*Join us as we praise God for Christ's final victory over sin and death through many joyful and joy-filled prayers, songs, and Scripture that proclaim the love of God that is more powerful than the power of the grave.*

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*Throughout Jerusalem, joyful shouts of “Hosanna!” are becoming angry cries of “Crucify Him!”  
The tide is turning against the Messiah.  
Soon Jesus will be betrayed ... arrested ... crucified ... and buried.*

*But first ... he will gather with his disciples to show them the true meaning of servanthood.  
Our Lord and Savior will wash their feet ... break the bread ... pour the cup ... and share a meal.*

*There is no benediction for today’s Palm Sunday worship because our service of worship does  
not end today, but continues on **Maundy Thursday (March 29<sup>th</sup>) at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary.*

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THIS MORNING’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor  
Elder Amy Means, Lector  
Ken Friese, Director of Music  
Diane Starost, Director of Youth Music  
Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

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IN OUR PRAYERS:

**New to the prayer list this week:**

**Clarissa Jost & George West (Father of Deborah West)**

**Continue to pray for those who remain on our prayer list:**

Holly Baptista, John Dunder (Friend of Glenn and Priscilla Jahier), Bob and Gail Esser, William Gray (Father of Dorothy Mandrakos), Dave and Else Haddock, Pat Lobasso (Husband of Joan Lobasso), Bob Miller, Virginia Perry, Ken Peterson, Lucille Ravalgi (Mother of Julie Salzano), Angelica Richter, James Schubauer, Laura Jane Tiberia (Daughter of Joan Lobasso), Peter Witkowski, and Grace Youngquist.

*Names on our prayer list will remain for a month.*

*If you would like to add a prayer request, please contact Pastor Means.*

INVITATION TO PRAYER

RESPONSIVE PRAYER ON THE PASSION OF OUR CHRIST

Our Redeemer suffered death, was buried, and rose again for our sake.

With love, let us adore him, aware of our needs.

Christ our teacher, for us you were obedient, even unto death;

**Teach us to obey God’s will in all things.**

Christ, our life, by dying on the cross you destroyed the power of sin, evil, and death;

**Enable us to die with you and to rise with you in glory.**

Christ, our strength, you were despised and humiliated as a condemned criminal;

**Teach us the humility by which you saved the world.**

Christ, our salvation, you gave your life out of your unconditional love for us;

**Help us to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength,  
and our neighbors as ourselves.**

Christ, our Savior, on the cross you embraced all of time with your outstretched arms;

**Gather your children, scattered in all places, into your eternal kingdom.**

Jesus, Lamb of God; bearer of our sins;

**Have gracious mercy upon us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world; author of our salvation;

**Grant us your everlasting peace.**

*Please take a moment of silence for personal prayer and reflection . . .*

Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to life eternal through the one who was crucified, died, and buried; yet rose again for us.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior, as together God’s people say ... **amen.**

HYMN 551 (Kyrie Eleison)

*Lord, Have Mercy*

***Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.***

***Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.***

DECLARATION OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Leader: In everlasting love, God redeems us and sets us free.

People: **God forgives us ... frees us ... and gives us peace.**

**To God we are ever thankful. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (Hymn 199)

*Filled with Excitement*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Let us greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.*

***We Listen for God's Word***

ANTHEM

*Riding on the Road to Jerusalem*  
Youth Choir

Frombach & Brooke

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Old Testament, p. 565 / P. 694

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Congregational Invitation: (sung)

**This, this is where children belong,  
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.  
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:  
This is where children belong.**

*(Church school is available for children preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.)*

MESSAGE

***"Why the Tears?"***

\*HYMN (See Insert)

*We Sang Our Glad Hosannas*

***We Respond in Word and Deed***

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the One triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

INVITATION TO RECEIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*The King of Glory!*

Larson

Kids' / Youth / Sanctuary Choirs

*Please be prepared to sing Hymn 197, "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna."*

*When invited, please join the choirs in singing verses 1 and 3.*

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn 606)

*Doxology*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CHORAL RESPONSE (Hymn 647, no repeats)

SHARING OF OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*The congregation is invited to share our prayer requests with one another.*

*If you would like to share a prayer request, please raise your hand and the Pastor will invite you to share your need for prayer.*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERING OF OUR TIME AND TALENT

INVITATION TO HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

## **Matthew 21:1-11**

### **New Testament, p. 23 / P. 27**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethpage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup> “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.”

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The 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!”

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Old Testament, p. 565 / P. 694**

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say,  
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD’s doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God,

and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,

up to the horns of the altar.

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God, I will extol you.

<sup>29</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**