



BLESSED IS THE
ONE

— — — — —
WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE
LORD!

MARK 11:9

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
March 24, 2024

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

March 24, 2024

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Welcome to Worship! This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord's table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

We thank Nathan Samsa for sharing his musical gifts this morning. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"The Palms" Jean Baptiste Faure Arr. Lani Smith

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Please stand if you are able

Call to worship

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Proclamation Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

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.

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.”

Blessing of Palms

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Procession

Let us go forth in peace,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

ELW 344

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

2 The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

3 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. *Refrain*

4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

5 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

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

Hosanna in the highest.

During the singing of "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" verse 3, a single candle on the Lenten wreath is extinguished. Our space becomes a little darker as we journey together toward the Passion of Christ.

I take, O Cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

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.

Please be seated if you are able

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9

A reading from Isaiah.

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience in the midst of persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

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.

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 (Read responsively)

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

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 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

A reading from Philippians.

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

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.**

Please be seated

Gospel: The Passion of Our Lord according to Mark.

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**

Please stand if you are able

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess before God our tendency, like the Jerusalem crowds, to profess our faith in moments of enthusiasm and deny our faith in moments of stress.

O God, we sing and praise you, happy of heart and strong of spirit, when we are among others who praise you too. But in times of stress, we seek scapegoats to be targets for our anger. We betray those we love and who have loved us, and we turn against you; too busy to seek you, too selfish to obey you. Your compassion is without bounds, O God, for you forgive us again and again. You restore us to a right spirit and bring us together to worship you. God of steadfast love, teach us how to be steadfast; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen

The good news of Christ is this; when we face the brokenness within ourselves and present our needs before God, we are given grace to grow and courage to continue the journey of faith. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Amen

Prayers of the people:

Response: Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Choir Offering

“Ab, Holy Jesus”

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.

Music: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Please stand if you are able

Offertory

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW 685

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

1 Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Offering 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 thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Please be seated

Distribution



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution Hymn

"Were You There"
Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

ELW 353

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

3 Were you there when they pierced him in the
side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the
side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the
side?

5 Were you there when they laid him in the
tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Distribution Hymn

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

ELW 339

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suffering, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.

3 Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;

2 You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.

thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.

Please stand

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in
His care.

Amen

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

Sending Hymn

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

ELW 347

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Music: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray. | 2 Follow to the judgment hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross. |
| 3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die. | 4 Early hasten to the tomb,
where they laid his breathless clay;
all is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise. |

Dismissal

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:
"A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known"
And a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS

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Morgan Noon, Organist	Lay Reader: Sandy Thompson
Today's Musician: Nathan Samsa	
Audio/Visual Tech: Jon Baaske	Communion Assistant: Toni Nossaman
Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com	Attendance: Mar. 17 – 64, Mar. 20 - 28
Like us on Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church, Sandusky	

2024 the Year of Story Memory Verse.

"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God" Hebrews 4:9

Thank you for volunteering to read this Palm Sunday!!

Jim Semon, Melinda and Ron Zorn, Chuck Thompson, Ray Witt, and Ryan Scovanner.

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Chuck and Sandy Thompson.

Council asks the congregation to pray for our current and newly-elected officials, that they may serve with discernment and integrity.

New Member Opportunity: We are so thankful for everyone worshiping with us recently. If you are interested in becoming a new member or in getting more information, please see Pastor Stacy or Sandy Thompson by March 24th. We look forward to talking with you.

Thank You: Dear St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 to ministries of the ELCA through ELCA Good Gifts. This \$1000.00 will help support refugee families. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you. With gratitude, Rachel Wind, Executive for Development.

Happy Birthday to Jim Stauffer.

Communion Clean-up today: Kathy Strayer & Bonny Ambos

March 28 - Set up - Toni Nossaman Clean up – Sandy Thompson

March 31 - Set up - Joleen Dillender Clean up –

April 7 – Set up - Elizabeth Libben Clean up –

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help out, please see Toni Nossaman, Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

Your help is needed with candy donations for the annual kids' Easter egg hunt. If you plan to donate, it is **very important to select small individually wrapped candy treats.** Please bring your donation of individually wrapped candy treats by Palm Sunday and place them in the container at the handicap entrance. Thank you for helping with this fun time for the youth of St. John's.

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday: March 24th 10:30 in the sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday: March 28th at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary Celebration of Holy Communion. Joint Worship with Zion Lutheran Huron.

Good Friday: March 29th at time 7:00 pm. Good Friday worship will be held at Zion Lutheran Church Huron.

Easter Sunday Schedule:

Easter Sunday, March 31st:

Easter Breakfast at 9:00 am. Your help will be needed to cook, setup, cleanup.

Easter egg hunt will be held for the youth immediately following breakfast at 9:30 am.

Easter Worship at 10:30 am with Holy Communion. **Note: only one service will be held on Easter morning.**

Alzheimer's Association: Please join us for **The Impact of Alzheimer's Disease in Our Community.** The forum will be held on Wed. April 3, 2024 from 7:45-9:00 am at the Sandusky Yacht Club, 529 E Water St. Sandusky. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by April 1. Erica Parnisari: elparnisari@alz.org (419-216-2973) Speakers: Camren Harris, OH Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association, Sue Daugherty, Exe. Dir. Serving our Seniors, Peter Schade, Health Commissioner, Erie County Health Department.

Thank You: Dear St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
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ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR MARCH 24TH THRU APRIL 7TH

Sunday, Mar. 24 Palm Sun.	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Sunday Worship
Maundy Thursday, Mar. 28	6:30 pm	Jt. Maundy Thursday worship at St. John's
Good Friday, Mar. 29	7:00 pm	Jt. Good Friday worship at Zion Huron
Easter Sunday, Mar. 31	9:00 am 9:45 am 10:30 am	Easter Breakfast Easter Egg Hung Easter Worship
Sunday, April 7	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Youth Sunday School Worship

Weekly Verse:

"The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him."

Psalms 130:1-2

- Mar. 24 – Pray for 3 people in your life
 25 – Close your eyes, breathe deeply for 1 minute
 26 – Check in: How are you really feeling today?
 27 – Take 1 thing off your calendar
 28 – Find God in nature today
 29 – Ask a loved one about their faith journey
 30 – Spend 5 minutes stretching

Sabbatical Opportunities

Hopewood Pines: Travel to Morrow County to experience one of our Lutheran camps. We will look at how camps form communities in the short time kids are gathered, how they share the Good News in new and old ways, learn about our local camp, and see where we send some of our youth. May 6, leaving the church at 9:30 AM. Lunch is provided.

Bellwether Farm: Venture to Wakeman to see an Episcopalian camp. They have an enormous community garden and provide farm to table cooking opportunities and meals to people who attend their camp. See how they care for the earth and share their faith through nature. May 30th in the morning, Lunch is provided.

Faith Lutheran Church in Swanton: This congregation has one of the largest community gardens in the synod. Worship with them outside, and see their garden. Hear how they provide food for local churches, and experience their pollinator garden. June 16, leaving the church at 8:30. Lunch is provided.

Islamic Center of Greater Toledo: We will learn about the Muslim faith and see where they worship. We will learn about forms of prayer, service, and giving. Date to be determined, likely in late June. Lunch is provided.

Spirituality Retreat: Rev. Dr. Lisa Dahill will join St John's to talk about spirituality, meditation, and nature. No church experience necessary even though those are churchy words! There will be time for prayer, journaling, and walking the labyrinth. This will be at Zion, Huron's outbuilding, from May 31-June 1. Dinner, snacks, and lunch will be included. There are only 15 spots available and cost is \$20. Reserve your spot soon!

Helping Out: Want to help council cover some needs? We need someone each Sunday to **welcome** the pastors who will lead our worship. Welcoming includes greeting them, showing them the microphone and the bathroom, and introducing them during the announcements. During the entire sabbatical, will have one cell phone so there is one number to call for pastoral needs. This will be passed around each week so someone different can answer. Would you be willing to **answer the phone** and call a local pastor on call so they know where to go? Three pastors are on call to respond to needs.

Name: _____

Interest: _____

How you can help (circle 1 or 2): welcome pastors answer phone

Phone: _____

Email: _____