

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Palm Sunday



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Palm Sunday

Introduction

The readings and psalm are the same this Sunday every year: Christ emptying himself of divine power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable to those who struck him and put him to death. With Christ we lament his suffering and all human suffering, but expect God's final vindication. Mark's passion story begins with an unnamed woman anointing his head, perhaps to proclaim him Messiah, and Jesus saying she has anointed him beforehand for burial. Mark's Easter story will begin with women going to anoint Jesus for burial, only to find that he has been raised, God's living Anointed One.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 256)

The presiding minister begins (repeated one or more times):

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

An assisting minister or the presiding minister reads the processional gospel.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF PALMS (ELW p. 256)

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

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.

OPENING HYMN: “Only a God Like You” Praise Team

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

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

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

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.”**

READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ’s example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ’s death.

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 the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please remain seated for the Gospel

GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Mark, the 14th and 15th chapters

Glory to you, O Lord

Narrator: It was two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and legal experts through cunning tricks were

searching for a way to arrest Jesus and kill him. But they agreed that it shouldn't happen during the festival; otherwise, there would be an uproar among the people.

Jesus was at Bethany visiting the house of Simon, who had a skin disease. During dinner, a woman came in with a vase made of alabaster and containing very expensive perfume of pure nard. She broke open the vase and poured the perfume on his head. Some grew angry. They said to each other:

The people: "Why waste the perfume? This perfume could have been sold for almost a year's pay and the money given to the poor."

Narrator: And they scolded her. Jesus said,

Jesus: "Leave her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. You always have the poor with you; and whenever you want, you can do something good for them. But you won't always have me. She has done what she could. She has anointed my body ahead of time for burial. I tell you the truth that, wherever in the whole world the good news is announced, what she's done will also be told in memory of her."

Narrator: Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to give Jesus up to them. When they heard it, they were delighted and promised to give him money. So he started looking for an opportunity to turn him in. On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, the disciples said to Jesus,

The people: "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?"

Narrator: He sent two of his disciples and said to them,

Jesus: "Go into the city. A man carrying a water jar will meet you. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks, "Where is my guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?"' He will show you a large room upstairs already furnished. Prepare for us there."

Narrator: The disciples left, came into the city, found everything just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal. That evening, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. During the meal, Jesus said,

Jesus: "I assure you that one of you will betray me—someone eating with me."

Narrator: Deeply saddened, they asked him, one by one,

The people: "It's not me, is it?"

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: "It's one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me into this bowl. The Son of Man goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Son of Man! It would have been better for him if he had never been born."

Narrator: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, and said,

Jesus: "Take; this is my body."

Narrator: He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them,

Jesus: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. I assure you that I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way in God's kingdom."

Narrator: After singing songs of praise, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "You will all falter in your faithfulness to me. It is written, *I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep will go off in all directions.*²⁸ But after I'm raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

Narrator: Peter said to him,

The people: "Even if everyone else stumbles, I won't."

Narrator: But Jesus said to him,

Jesus: "I assure you that on this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

Narrator: But Peter insisted,

The people: "If I must die alongside you, I won't deny you."

Narrator: And they all said the same thing. Jesus and his disciples came to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "Sit here while I pray."

Narrator: He took Peter, James, and John along with him. He began to feel despair and was anxious. He said to them,

Jesus: "My soul is deeply grieved, even to the point of death. Stay here and keep alert."

Narrator: Then he went a short distance farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if possible, he might be spared the time of suffering. He said,

Jesus: "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible. Take this cup of suffering away from me. However—not what I want but what you want."

Narrator: Then he came and found them sleeping. He said to Peter,

Jesus: "Simon, are you asleep? Couldn't you stay alert for one hour? Stay alert and pray so that you won't give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak."

Narrator: Again, he left them and prayed, repeating the same words. And, again, when he came back, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open...



The people: (*silence*)

Narrator: ...and they didn't know how to respond to him. He came a third time and said to them,

Jesus: "Will you sleep and rest all night? That's enough! The time has come for the Son of Man to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let's go! Look, here comes my betrayer."

Narrator: Suddenly, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came with a mob carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests, legal experts, and elders. His betrayer had given them a sign:

The people: "Arrest the man I kiss, and take him away under guard."

Narrator: As soon as he got there, Judas said to Jesus,

The people: "Rabbi!"

Narrator: Then he kissed him. Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him. One of the bystanders drew a sword and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his ear. Jesus responded,

Jesus: "Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like an outlaw? Day after day, I was with you, teaching in the temple, but you didn't arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

Narrator: And all his disciples left him and ran away. One young man, a disciple, was wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They grabbed him, but he left the linen cloth behind and ran away naked. They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders, and legal experts gathered. Peter followed him from a distance, right into the high priest's courtyard. He was sitting with the guards, warming himself by the fire. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they couldn't find any. Many brought false testimony against him, but they contradicted each other. Some stood to offer false witness against him, saying,

The people: "We heard him saying, 'I will destroy this temple, constructed by humans, and within three days I will build another, one not made by humans.' "

Narrator: But their testimonies didn't agree even on this point. Then the high priest stood up in the middle of the gathering and examined Jesus.

The people: "Aren't you going to respond to the testimony these people have brought against you?"

Narrator: But Jesus was silent and didn't answer. Again, the high priest asked,

The people: "Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed one?"

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds."

Narrator: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

The people: "Why do we need any more witnesses? You've heard his insult against God. What do you think?"

Narrator: They all condemned him.

The people: "He deserves to die!"

Narrator: Some began to spit on him. Some covered his face and hit him, saying,

The people: "Prophecy!"

Narrator: Then the guards took him and beat him.

Meanwhile, Peter was below in the courtyard. A woman, one of the high priest's servants, approached and saw Peter warming himself by the fire. She stared at him and said,

The people: "You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus."

Narrator: But he denied it, saying,

The people: "I don't even understand what you're talking about!"

Narrator: And he went outside into the outer courtyard. A rooster crowed.

The female servant saw him and began a second time to say to those standing around,

The people: "This man is one of them."

Narrator: But he denied it again. A short time later, those standing around again said to Peter,

The people: "You must be one of them, because you are also a Galilean."

Narrator: But he cursed and swore,

The people: "I don't know this man you're talking about."

Narrator: At daybreak, the chief priests—with the elders, legal experts, and the whole Sanhedrin—formed a plan. They bound Jesus, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him,

The people: "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Narrator: Jesus replied,

Jesus: "That's what you say."

Narrator: The chief priests were accusing him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

The people: "Aren't you going to answer? What about all these accusations?"

Narrator: But Jesus gave no more answers, so that Pilate marveled. During the festival, Pilate released one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. A man named Barabbas was locked up with the rebels who had committed murder during an uprising. The crowd pushed forward

and asked Pilate to release someone, as he regularly did. Pilate answered them,

The people: “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?”

Narrator: He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of jealousy. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead. Pilate replied,

The people: “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?”

Narrator: They shouted back,

The people: “Crucify him!”

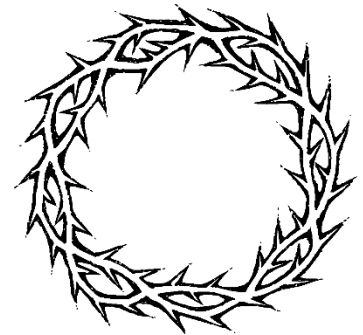
Narrator: Pilate said to them,

The people: “Why? What wrong has he done?”

Narrator: They shouted even louder,

The people: “Crucify him!”

Narrator: Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus away into the courtyard of the palace known as the governor’s headquarters, and they called together the whole company of soldiers. They dressed him up in a purple robe and twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on him. They saluted him,



The people: “Hey! King of the Jews!”

Narrator: Again and again, they struck his head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt before him to honor him. When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. Simon, a man from Cyrene, Alexander and Rufus’ father, was coming in from the countryside. They forced him to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means Place of the Skull. They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he didn’t take it.

They crucified him. They divided up his clothes, drawing lots for them to determine who would take what. It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The notice of the formal charge against him was written, "The king of the Jews." They crucified two outlaws with him, one on his right and one on his left.

People walking by insulted him, shaking their heads and saying,

The people: "Ha! So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you? Save yourself and come down from that cross!"

Narrator: In the same way, the chief priests were making fun of him among themselves, together with the legal experts.

The people: "He saved others, but he can't save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross. Then we'll see and believe."

Narrator: Even those who had been crucified with Jesus insulted him. From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark. At three, Jesus cried out with a loud shout,

Jesus: *"Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani,"*

Narrator: which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" After hearing him, some standing there said,

The people: "Look! He's calling Elijah!"

Narrator: Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink, saying,

The people: "Let's see if Elijah will come to take him down."

Narrator: But Jesus let out a loud cry and died. The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

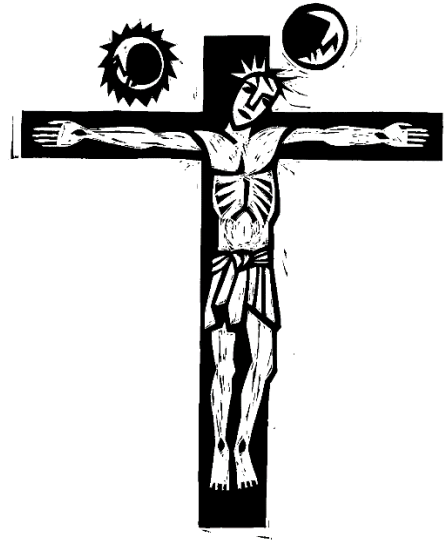
When the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw how he died, he said,

The people: "This man was certainly God's Son."

Narrator: Some women were watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James (the younger one) and Joses, and Salome. When Jesus was in Galilee, these women had followed and supported him, along with many other women who had come to Jerusalem with him. Since it was late in the afternoon on

Preparation Day, just before the Sabbath, Joseph from Arimathea dared to approach Pilate and ask for Jesus' body. (Joseph was a prominent council member who also eagerly anticipated the coming of God's kingdom.) Pilate wondered if Jesus was already dead. He called the centurion and asked him whether Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, Pilate gave the dead body to Joseph.

Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been carved out of rock. He rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was buried.



The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You, O Christ

Silent Reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” #335 ELW

Please stand if able

APOSTLE’S 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 Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was 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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Bless all who call upon your name. Unite your church in bearing witness to the gospel. Pour your love into our hearts, and inspire us to pour out our lives in service to your world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. For palm trees and figs. For trees with leafy branches. For olive groves and gardens. For mountains and hillsides, valleys and canyons. For places affected by rising sea levels or depleted water sources. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. For peace among all, especially those who honor Jerusalem as holy ground. For all who hold positions of authority and power. For all who suffer oppression, and for those who serve in the armed forces. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For those who have suffered betrayal. For those who live in poverty. For those who have no voice or power. For the forsaken and forgotten. For those who are in crisis, and for those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism or confirmation. For musicians, altar guilds, ushers, and all who lead us in worship. For those who serve our community through food pantries, homeless shelters, and clothing banks. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember all who (*like Mary, the mother of Jesus,*) have been obedient to your will and all who have died in faith (*especially*). Bring us with them into your glory, to dwell with you in life eternal. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,

receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

347 ELW

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

*Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!
Please come again.*

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal & Praise Team

Greeters: Bev & Wally Swenson

Ushers: Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau

Lector: Winnie Zahradka

Hospitality Hosts: Steve & Melody Lackner

Winnie Zahradka, Marilyn Andrews

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, March 18, 2018: 9:00 am 80

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 30

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

March 26 – April 1, 2018

Monday	3/26	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/27	9:00 am	Quilters
		12:00-noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	3/28	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	3/29	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		1:00 pm	Funtimers
		6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday	3/30	9:00 am	Good Friday Worship
Sunday	4/1	8:30 am	EASTER-Worship
		10:00 am	EASTER-Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

BLESSING BOX Next Sunday will be a “Blessing Box” Sunday. All donations will be directed to local benevolence.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN The date is set!! Please join us in packing meals at Feed My Starving Children on Thursday, April 12 from 12 noon-2pm in Coon Rapids. Those interested in car-pooling will meet at Bethesda Lutheran at 9:30 am. Registration is required so please email the church with the names of those interested in participating. There are over 25 people already registered; we still have room for more!

ISLE COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA “Come to the Cross and Remember”, March 30, 7:30 pm. at Faith Lutheran Church, Isle. Choir members from 8 area churches invite you to this 40 minute Good Friday presentation, with prayers that it will enriched in your Lenten journey. Refreshments will follow the program.

EASTER EGG HUNT Castaways Resort in Malmo will host a free community Kids Easter Egg Hunt on March 31, 2018; 11:00 AM. Includes lunch for kids, Easter egg hunt in separated groups by age, games, prizes, face painting and a visit from the Easter bunny. Please sign up by March 27th if possible by calling 218-670-0505 or leave information regarding number of kids and their ages in church office so they can get appropriate age prizes.

MEMORY GARDEN Paver orders will be taken now through mid-June. We have a new preferred customer status that will allow you to purchase pavers at a reduced cost. A 3 line pavers is now \$25.00 and a large paver of up to 5 lines is \$35.00. Order forms are in the narthex and can be completed and returned to the Memory Garden/Nature Trail office mailbox. They can also be given to either church secretary or Val Benton.

EASTER LILIES Today will be the last Sunday for ordering lilies and they will be delivered to church on Thursday, the 29th. Altar care committee will be decorating the church with the lilies on Friday, March 30th after the 9:00am church service. Everyone is welcome to help.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS If you have a favorite hymn you would like us to play there is a suggestion basket in the Narthex. Let us know what you want to sing.