

# St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday

Please tune to 87.9 FM



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## INTRODUCTION

*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.*

## INVOCATION FOR HOLY WEEK

P: We begin our holy week journey and the passion of our Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## BLESSING THE PALM BRANCHES (Raise your palm branches)

P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

**C: Hosanna to the King of Kings**

P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

**C: Hosanna to the Son of David**

P: We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through your Son 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.

**C: On this most holy day, grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter full and abundant life with you; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us.**  
**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**to follow in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

### **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.**

### **FIRST READING**

**ISAIAH 50:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up to-

gether. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

## PSALM

## PSALM 31:9-16

- <sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
- <sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
- <sup>11</sup>I 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.
- <sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**
- <sup>13</sup>For 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.
- <sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.**
- <sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- <sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

## SECOND READING

## PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## GOSPEL

## MARK 11:1-11

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and 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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed

them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>11</sup>Then 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.

## **SERMON**

**Interim Pastor Greg Gaskamp**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (v 1, 2, 4, 5)*

*Back page*

## **APOSTLES’ 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**

*Each petition of the prayers ends with the following response*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## PEACE

### OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.

You gather your people around the tree of the cross,  
transforming death into life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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.  
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### **BLESSING**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God**



# IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

## Our Church Family:

Mavis Smith	Janice Cordova	Sydney Wagner	Florence Bentke
Ella Ruemke	Clarence Witt	Gilbert Spinn	Helen Gaskamp
Emery Schulze	Cynthia Wilson	Verna Mae Sefcik	Linda King
Tom Bentke	Jerry Randermann	Mary Ann Luce	Connie Seward
Justin Reuter	Dorothy Wiesepeape	Andrew Schroeder	Charles "Dutch" Schulze
Phyllis Bickham	Marvin Haevischer	Marjorie Hohlt	Lea Alcala
A.G. "Doc" & Allene Holtkamp	Peggy & Milton Bosse	John & Carol Haarmeyer	
Clarence & Shirley Moehlmann			

**Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries:** Sharon Boswell, David Schawe, Mina Kraft, Calvin Janner, Verna Bentke, Matthew Bentke, Mark Eckert, Johanna Wilkerson

**Those celebrating wedding anniversaries:** Brooke & Darren Huckert

## Holy Week



**Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** 7:00PM Parking Lot & Indoor Worship

**Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** 9:00AM Parking Lot & Indoor Worship

**Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship Service  
 9:00AM Sunday School Egg Hunt  
 10:05AM Indoor Sanctuary Worship Service

## REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Johanna Becker      prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com      979-836-8666 (church office)  
 Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm      Website: [www.stjohnnpairiehill.org](http://www.stjohnnpairiehill.org)

(v 1, 2, 4, 5)

## Will You Let Me Be Your Servant



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers  
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll  
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er  
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.  
walk the mile and bear the load.  
speak the peace you long to hear.  
till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard

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Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Mary Longhofer to honor our Lord, Jesus.