

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

www.stjbeth.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Rd E
Milan, WI 54411

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
119415 Huckleberry Rd
Edgar, WI 54426



ENTRY OF JESUS INTO JERUSALEM

And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord... (Matthew 21: 9)

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

Reverend Michael Mathey, Pastor

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Statement on Close Communion:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, Our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with the Pastor.

(CTCR, *Admission to the Lord's Supper*, Nov 1999)

Life Quotes: March 24 “So let us be sober, putting on faith and love as our breastplate and the hope of salvation as our helmet, encouraging one another and building each other up as together we faithfully wait, expectantly wait, joyfully wait—for Jesus.”
Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook, guest speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •
lutheransforlife.org.

Life Thoughts: March 24 – Palm Sunday/Passion of Our Lord
– Sinful nature prizes popularity, property, and power. It despises dependence and discards aging or gestating neighbors because of it. But Jesus proves that God has designed humankind to rely on Him and each other. His salvation comes about by humbly and happily entrusting oneself to an Almighty Father (Philippians 2:6-8). We need not take life and death into our own hands when we can rest upon His.

Divine Service III (Modified for Lent)

STJ only: Blessing of Vestments

PROCESSION OF PALMS

GREETING & OPENING COLLECT

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna to the Son of David.

P: Let us pray, Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

All: Amen.

The Holy Gospel: John 12:12 – 19 (ESV)

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: in the name of the Lord.

Processional Hymn “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

LSB 442

P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna in the highest.

(A period of silence is observed to highlight the contrast between Jesus’ triumphant entry and the beginning of His passion.)

P: Let us pray, Almighty and everlasting God, . . . now and forever.

C: Amen.

STJ: Sunday School Children Sing “Hosanna! Hosanna!”

Gradual:

Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood,

thus securing an eternal redemption.

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant,

so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

He sent redemption to his people;

he has commanded his covenant forever.

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: Mark 15:1-47

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" And they cried out again, "Crucify him." And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified

two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!” So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.” And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

P : This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles Creed (p.192)

Office hymn: “Hosanna, Laud Hosanna” LSB 443

Sermon

Offertory (p.192)

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.194)

Sanctus (p.195)

The Lord’s Prayer (p.196)

The Words of Institution (p.197)

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei (p.198)

Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

“Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior” LSB 619

“Christ, the Life of All the Living” LSB 420

“When I Behold Jesus Christ” LSB 542

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Benediction (p.202)

Hymn: “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” LSB 441

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

Our Shut-ins

Please remember to sign the Guest Register at the end of the pews.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

STJ:	Thur. March 28	Maundy Thursday 1:30pm
Beth:	Thur. March 28	Maundy Thursday 7pm
STJ:	Fri. March 29	Good Friday 1:30pm - Devotional
Beth:	Fri. March 29	Good Friday 7pm - Full Service
	Sun. March 31	Easter Sunday

St. John and Bethlehem: No Sunday school Easter Sunday. And also no youth Bible Study.

Bethlehem: For the next 2 weeks we will be collecting items for nursing homes and assisted living facilities for the patients living there!!! There are boxes in the entry way with a list of items needed. Thank you

Palm Sunday Breakfast: Bethlehem will be serving breakfast after service today.

Bake Sale: Delicious goodies will be on sale at Bethlehem, Im and St. John. Get some goodies to take home for Palm Sunday and Easter.

A note for your calendars: Lutheran Laymens League Spring rally will be held at St. John High Steeple Edgar, WI on Sunday April 7th, 2024.

Pot- Blessed meal at 1:00 P.M. Beverages, BBQ provided. Please bring a dish to share.

Devotions, Bible Study, Sharing your faith and a short business meeting to follow.

+ + +
**KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE**
+ + +

Why do we celebrate “Palm Sunday”?

The Sunday before Jesus was crucified by the people, they honored and adored Him as their Lord and king with palm branches. We remember this as the beginning of Christ’s bitter walk to the cross.



PRAISE HIM!

CRUCIFY HIM!

Why did the people honor and adore Jesus on Palm Sunday and then kill Him on Good Friday?

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the people began to praise and honor Him as their king. They believed Him to be a powerful leader who would overthrow the Roman government and restore Israel. When Jesus did not do this, the people wanted Him crucified. You and I know what kind of a king He is. He’s a king who came to die for the sins of His people. Wow! What a king!



Parents: Remind your children that it was important that Jesus did die for their sins. That is exactly what He came to earth to do. He came to pay the price that we could never pay. Direct your children to the symbols in the church that reflect Christ’s death. Remind them that we will hear of His victory over death next Sunday on Easter!!!



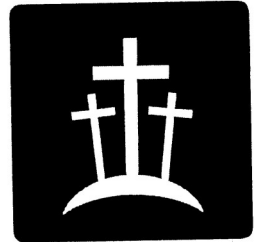
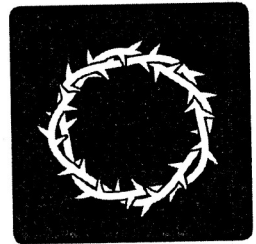
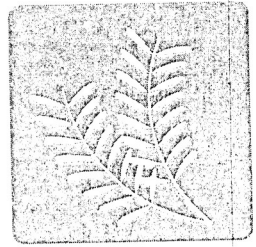
KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Why do we have a week called "Holy Week"?

Why would we refer to a week as being holy? The word "holy" means that it is from God. That's why we call the Bible "holy." It isn't just any book. It is God's living Word given to us for our salvation! The same goes for Holy Week. This is "God's Week." This is the week in the Church Year when Jesus actually paid for our sins and won our salvation!

Which days are in Holy Week?

There are particular days during Holy Week that are extra special. During Holy Week we celebrate **Palm Sunday**, when Jesus went to Jerusalem and people celebrated His arrival; **Maundy Thursday**, when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper; **Good Friday**, when Jesus died on the cross; and **Holy Saturday**, when we await His resurrection on Easter Sunday!



Parents:

During worship, help your children to look for other things in the church that are considered holy (i.e., God's Word, the Sacraments, etc.). Ask them: "How does God use these things to give us His forgiveness?"

