



**Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday**  
**March 28, 2021**

*The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.*

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.

**Processional Gospel : John 12:12-16**

*Jesus enters Jerusalem*

<sup>12</sup>[Five days before the Passover] the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.<sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—  
the King of Israel!"

<sup>14</sup>Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

<sup>15</sup>"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

<sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

**Hymn** "Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW 264

1 Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:

*Refrain*

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

- 2 God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

**The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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.**

**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.**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 50: 4-9a

*The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

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

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

**Second 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.*

<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.

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

## GOSPEL: Mark 15: 1-39

The Holy Gospel according to Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.*

<sup>1</sup>As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup>Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. <sup>8</sup>So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. <sup>9</sup>Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. <sup>12</sup>Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup>They shouted back, "Crucify him!" <sup>14</sup>Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup>They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup>Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup>In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema

sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

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

**Homily** The Rev. Kurt Strause

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," and the response is "**Hear our prayer.**"

### **Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace;

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**Hymn** "Go To Dark Gethsemane"

ELW 347

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 suffering, shame, or loss;  
 learn from him to bear the cross.

**DISMISSAL**

Take up your cross. Follow the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** "Steps to Calvary" Robert Lau

**Sanctuary Candle** is presented in memory of my husband Matt, my daughter Linda Ammons and daughter-in-law Elaine by Audrey Lewandowski.



Michael A. Crowther	Alverta Showalter
Clarice Haws	Clyde Showalter
Betty Hornberger	Mary Ann Weitzel
Charles Moyer	Mary Jane Miller
Ella Shirk	Josie Reitz

Katie Houck  
 Sue Kittler  
 Hunter Leisey  
 Susan Levan  
 Nancy Kulp  
 Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)  
 Clair Sweigart  
 Earl Myers  
 Dorothy Good  
 Family of Joel M Smith  
 Family of Audrey Lewandowski

Sharon Fremont –( friend of Sue Kreitz)  
 Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)  
 Joan Long  
 Elmo Lorah  
 Jean Wolf  
 Mary Jane Miller  
 Janice Moyer Kelly  
 Josie Reitz  
 Ashton Faust  
 Family of Ralph Good



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.

**TAKE NOTE** - Please contact Joyce Stoner 717-336-7077 if you would like to sponsor a candle or flowers. Many coming dates are open.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS** - Sat. April 3 - Drive Thru Easter Egg Hunt 10-10:30AM  
 Sun April 11 - In-Person Sunday School 9:30-10AM (more details to follow)

**Reminder** – Please let the church office know which Easter service your family will attend.

## Made for Community

The Cocalico Lutheran Cluster of Churches will sponsor a VIRTUAL Lenten series. We will post the videos weekly on our church website. Please take note of the schedule below.

Wednesday, March 31

Bergstrasse, East Ephrata "In Community in the Face of Brokenness"

## Holy Week

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.

### Schedule of Holy Week Worship Services

#### **Maundy Thursday: April 1 – 7:30 p.m.**

Jesus gathers his closest disciples for a final meal before his betrayal and death. During this meal he institutes the Lord's Supper as well as giving them an example of servanthood as he washes their feet.



#### **Good Friday: April 2 – 8:00 p.m.**

A somber and dramatic service in which we celebrate the Triumph of the Cross. The Gospel of John tells the story of Jesus facing all the powers of darkness and evil as he willingly accepts the will of his Father for the sake of the whole world.

#### **Easter Day, The Resurrection of Our Lord: April 4 – 6:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.**

Christ is Risen! Jesus triumphs over the powers of sin and death as he is raised from the dead. The whole church resounds with the glorious "Alleluias" signaling the end of our captivity.

Two essentially identical services are being offered on Easter morning to accommodate extra worshippers.



***Please note there will be no Holy Week breakfasts this year, nor will there be an Easter morning breakfast. Please let the church office know which Easter service your family will be attending.***