



Lutheran Church of the Covenant
Maple Heights, OH

Palm Sunday

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant welcomes you to worship!
Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise
the God of new life together!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.
We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking
the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!

Portions marked with * are when we invite you to stand as you are
able to do so. There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a
basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local
ministry as well as the wider church.

A children’s table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you’ll
find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in
worship.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Lector	Allan Treichel
Reader	Paula Hohenstein
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak



***Dismissal**

Whether we walk with all faith or none we look towards the cross, knowing it is both the most human and most divine of all journeys. Travel the road with courage, with love, and with faith into this holiest of weeks. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:
Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Joan Clarke, Bruce Constant, Chuck Dickey, Olive Evanofski, Barbara Fossa, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Jean Rusher, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 4/6/2025:\$2306.50

Palm Sunday
9:00 a.m. April 13th, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to the Procession and Blessing of Palms

They brought the colt of a donkey to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.
As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,
**“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”**

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered them:
“I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

Bless these parade palms, O God of Celebration.

May they remind us of the simple joys of living.

May we remember the excitement that comes with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms, O God of Justice.

May they remind us that Empire is not a thing of the past.

May they make us bold and brave to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms, O God of Comfort.

May they remind us of the road that lies ahead.

May they encourage us in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks for the palms, the parade, the protest, the processional.

Guide our steps through this holiest of weeks as we cry out together "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!" Amen.

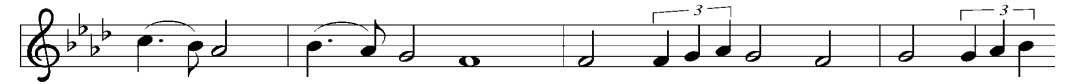
***Gathering Song: *All Glory Laud and Honor* ELW# 344**

Verses 1, 3 &4 (next page)

***Sending Hymn: *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow* ELW #327**



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

*Blessing

We have gathered with the crowds crying Hosanna!

Because even if we were silent

the stones themselves would have called out.

We have shared the hope for a world about to be changed,

and then it changed.

We have walked with another crowd.

One that called words of scorn and condemnation.

And now we follow the crowd as it leads out to the cross,

and yet even as the world grows dark,

we cannot lose hope.

Because God is with us.


God will be with us.

Whatever happens.


We are not alone.

We go forth in Christ ✝ for the coming of the kingdom. **Amen.**


Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re-deem-er, king,




to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.

*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

Gracious God, as we enter this Holy Week, strengthen us to move beyond the festive parade of palms and to follow Jesus into the way of the cross, that united with him and all the faithful, we may one day enter through the gates of righteousness into the eternal city, the New Jerusalem, where we may praise you with Christ and the Holy Spirit forever. **Amen.**

Children's Moment - Palm Crosses

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

The Holy One says, "Shout and cheer, Daughter Zion!

Raise your voice, Daughter Jerusalem!

Your king is coming!

a good king who makes all things right,

a humble king riding a donkey,

a mere colt of a donkey.

I've had it with war—no more chariots in Ephraim,

no more war horses in Jerusalem,

no more swords and spears, bows and arrows.

He will offer peace to the nations,

a peaceful rule worldwide,

from the four winds to the seven seas.

"And you, because of my blood covenant with you,

I'll release your prisoners from their hopeless cells.

Come home, hope-filled prisoners!

This very day I'm declaring a double bonus—

everything you lost returned twice-over!"

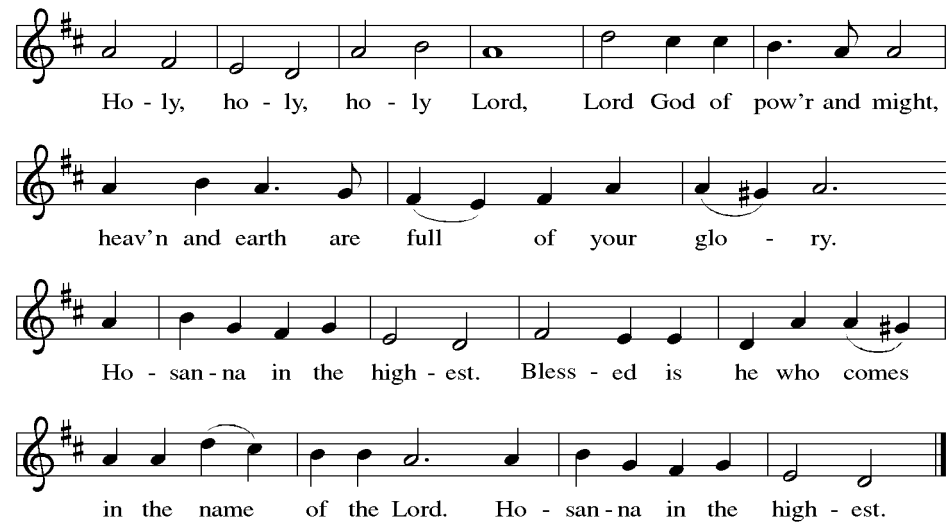
*Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn



*Post-Communion Prayer

God of hope, we give you thanks for the blessing of our communion with you. May you guide us in faithfulness as we move through Holy Week. From the upper room to the empty tomb, we seek to be where you are. **Amen.**



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

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

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

Psalm 118:19-29

Open for me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Living God.

**This is the gate of the Holy Presence;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the Holy One's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the Holy One has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Save us, we pray, O Holy One!

O Holy One, we pray, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Most High God.

We bless you from the house of the Holy One.

The Holy One is God,
and God has given us light.

**Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.**

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will exalt you.

**Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good,
God's faithful love endures forever.**

Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-4:7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than those who are enslaved, though they are the owners of all the property, but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent the Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of God's own Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

*Offering Prayer

Holy One, we give you thanks for the great deeds of salvation that you have done and continue to do. Bless these offerings of thanksgiving that they may further your kingdom in this world; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, you created the heavens and the earth, sea and dry ground, creeping things and flying birds, mountains and plains, desert sands and forest canopies. All around us, the beauty of your handiwork is evident. In love and freedom, you gave us your blessing to eat from every plant and from the fruit of the trees. In return for your generosity and abundance, we grasped for more than you gave us, separating ourselves from you through sin. Yet even when we were unfaithful, you remained faithful to us. You continued to give us the gift of your good creation. When we wandered from your ways, you sent prophets to call us back and give us hope. As the prophets promised, we went out in joy and were led back in peace. It seemed to us that the mountains and hills burst into song, and the trees of the field clapped their hands in praise of your power, your faithfulness, and your name:

*Sanctus (next page)

tors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **re-ceive our prayer.**


We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. God, in your mercy, **re-ceive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**


Sharing of the Peace

Music Interlude

The Offertory Hymn: *We Give Thee but Thine Own*
ELW #686 verses 1-2




1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

*Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*Gospel: Luke 23:1-49

¹ Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. ² They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man inciting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.” ³ Then Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He answered, “You say so.” ⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for an accusation against this man.” ⁵ But they were insistent and said, “He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.” ⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. ⁹ He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the

scribes stood by vehemently accusing him.¹¹ Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then they put an elegant robe on him and sent him back to Pilate.¹² That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him.¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death.¹⁶ I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

¹⁸ Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!”¹⁹ (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city and for murder.)²⁰ Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again,²¹ but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!”²² A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.”²³ But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed.²⁴ So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted.²⁵ He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their

Prayers of the People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Make your creation a living witness to Christ’s passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pas-

***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.

breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed, and the

curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.” ⁴⁸ And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

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

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: *There in God’s Garden* ELW #342

Verses 1-4 (next page)



1 There in God’s gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, “Our Sav - ior!”
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f’ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, “Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row, I will give bless - ing.”