

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



March 24, 2024-Palm Sunday

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community.”

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Welcome to Worship this morning!

To receive Holy Communion, you may come to the front and receive the bread and wine or grape juice, you may ask an usher to have the pastor bring the elements to you in the pew, or you may pick up the cup/wafer in the narthex before the service and commune yourself at your seat.

Reminder: We are videoing “live”.

If you need a hearing device, they are on the usher’s table.



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.

PRELUIDE

Deanna Gorsegger

ACCLAMATION

Red Worship Book p. 256

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

C: Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Zechariah 9:9-12

P: ⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

C: ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

P: ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

C: ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

BLESSING OF PALMS

Red Worship Book p. 256

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

Procession “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Red Worship Book #344

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, 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.

Special Music

“Come Thou Almighty King”

Bell Choir

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Paul Olson

⁴The 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 awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

⁶I 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.

⁷The 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;

⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

P: Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

**C: For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

P: I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to ¹ my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

**C: Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

P: 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.

**C: But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, “You are my God.**

P: My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

**C: Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul Olson

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.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Red Worship Book #142

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Time

Pastor Erik Rundquist

SERMON

Pastor Erik Rundquist

Hymn

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Red Worship Book #335

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

P: Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING HYMN

Red Worship Book #186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

P; God of good gifts,

C: receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: 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

Red Worship Book p. 144

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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'S PRAYER

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

C: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION SONG "LAMB OF GOD..."

Red Worship Book p. 146

COMMUNION SONG "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!"

Red Worship Book #346

COMMUNION SONG "We Come to the Hungry Feast"

Red Worship Book #479

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Embodied God,

C: at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG Prepare the Royal Highway

Red Worship Book #264

DISMISSAL

P: United in Faith...Our Mission is to grow in Christ and serve others.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

We welcome Pastor Erik Rundquist to our family at First Lutheran Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, March 24th.



*The Noisy Offering" for March: "Food Shelf", there will be a bowl as you exit the church.

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/HC/Bells; All Church Birthday Party after Worship.

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study.

Wed. 11 am Staff mtg. with Pastor Erik; **NO Youth Choir, FiA, Confirmation, 6:30 pm Worship or Youth Group.**

Thurs. 7 am Men's Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Men's Text Study; 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship.

Fri. 3:30 Practice for Worship; 6:30 pm Good Friday-Stations of the Cross.

Sat. 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 7:30 am Worship/HC/Bells; 8:30 am Easter Breakfast-Youth; 9:30 am Worship/HC/Bells.



Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~ Craig Moline (son of Sharol Huggett), David Shober, Larry Edin, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Lana Jensen, Judy Smith, and Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeney).

For Health Care Workers, Firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.

For world peace. For our companion synods.

For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke.



Community Meal Tuesday, April 2 from 5-6 pm.

(Meal prepared and served by A. Johnson family.)

Don't forget to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funds can help support organizations you care about.

Don't let your designated Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who have been designated Choice Dollars have until March 31, 2024, to direct any remaining 2023 Choice Dollars.

Let Kathy Thompson know where you want the money to go, that way she has your verification of where it should go.

Help support First Lutheran.

Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836

YOUTH MISSION TRIP



TASTE OF NEW ORLEANS



SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH

10:30-12:30

JAMBALAYA

GUMBO

CHICORY COFFEE



Prize Giveaways and FUN Entertainment

Kings cake and café Du Monde

Beignets for Dessert

