



**Sunday of the Passion  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
March 24, 2024  
9:00 am**

**Prelude** - Linda Ranney

**Gathering Rite** – *(Please stand and face procession)*

**Liturgy of the Palms** - *Mark 11:1-13*

**PC:** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Hosanna in the highest!**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he 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.

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

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

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, **for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. We commemorate this day that 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. 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 of the Palms**

*"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"* ELW#344 v. 1, 3, 4

*Refrain*

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son, now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

3 The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went; our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain*

4 To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*

### **Eric: 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.**

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.**

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

<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>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation: “Lord to Whom Shall We Go” by Michael Joncas**

*(Please stand)*

Lord, to whom shall we go? Lord,  
to whom shall we go? You a -  
lone, you a-lone have the words of ev-er-last-ing life.

**Eric:** The Passion of Our Lord according to the Gospel of Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.** *(Instruct Assembly to be seated)*

It was now two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The high priests and the teachers of the Law were plotting a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and put him to death. They said,

**"We must not do it during the festival, or the people will riot."**

Jesus was in Bethany eating at the home of Simon, who once had leprosy. A woman entered with an alabaster jar full of nard, a very expensive fragrant oil. After breaking open the alabaster jar, she poured the oil on Jesus' head. This made some of the people angry, and they complained among themselves saying,

**"Why has this oil been wasted? This oil could have been sold for more than three hundred silver coins and the money been given to the poor!"**

So they started criticizing the woman. But Jesus said:

**"Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. You will always have poor people among you. You can give to them whenever you want to. But you won't always have me. She has done what she could; she poured oil on my body to prepare it ahead of time for burial. You may be sure that wherever the good news is told all over the world, what she did will be told in memory of her."**

Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the high priests in order to hand Jesus over to them. They were glad to hear this, and they promised to pay him. So Judas started looking for a good chance to betray Jesus.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lambs were being killed, Jesus' disciples asked him,

**"Where do you want us to go and get the Passover meal ready for you?"**

Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions, "Go into the city, where you will meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him, and when he goes into a house, say to the head of the household,

**'Our teacher wants to know where there is a room where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples.'**

Then he will take you upstairs and show you a large room furnished and ready for use. Prepare the meal for us there." The disciples left, went to the city, and found everything just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, Jesus and the twelve came. While reclining with them at the table, Jesus said,

**"What I say is true—one of you will betray me, one who is now eating with me."**

They felt hurt and one after another they said to Jesus,

**"You don't mean me!"**

He answered,

**"It is one of the twelve, one eating from this dish with me. The Son of Man will die, just as the Scriptures say he will. But it is going to be terrible for the one who betrays the Son of Man. That man would be better off if he had never been born."**

**PC:** (Table for Eucharist is prepared in silence)

During the meal Jesus took some bread in his hands. He blessed it, broke it, and gave it them, and said,

**"Take this. It is my body."**

Jesus picked up a cup, gave a prayer of thanks to God, and handed it to them; and they all drank from it. Then he said,

**"This is my blood being shed for multitudes, and with it God makes a covenant. What I say is true: From now on I will not drink any wine, until I drink new wine in God's kingdom."**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As we prepare to feast on this gift of life, we pray the prayer that our Lord instructed us to pray: **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**

### **Invitation to the Table**

*(Acolyte- comes forward for communion. The 2 ushers will go to the front of the Sanctuary and begin releasing worshippers to receive a wafer and wine.)*

Hymn *"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"* ELW#494 v.1-4

- 1 **For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured, for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.**
- 2 **By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored, by your call to heav'n above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.**
- 3 **With the saints who now adore you, seated at the heav'nly board, may the church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.**
- 4 **In your service, Lord, defend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward; in the world to which you send us let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

**PC:** Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus said to his disciples, "All of you will reject me, as the Scriptures say,

**'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'**

But after I am raised to life, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter spoke up,

**"Even if all the others reject you, I never will!"**

Jesus replied,

**"This very night before a rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you don't know me."**

But Peter insisted,

**"Even if I have to die with you, I will never say that I don't know you!"**

All the others said the same thing.

They came to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to the disciples,

**"Sit here while I go pray."**

He took Peter, James, and John with him. He was distressed and troubled and told them,

**"I am so sad that I feel like I am dying. Stay here and keep awake with me."**

Jesus went on a little way. Then he knelt down on the ground and prayed, that if possible, he might be spared this hour. He said,

**"Papa, Father, you can do anything. Take this cup (of suffering) away from me. But— what you want and not what I want."**

When Jesus came back, he found the disciples sleeping. He said to Peter,

**"Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake for just one hour? Stay awake and pray that you won't be tested. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

Jesus went back and prayed the same prayer. But when he returned to the disciples, he found them sleeping again. They simply could not keep their eyes open, and they didn't know what to say.

When Jesus came back the third time, he said,

**"Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough of that! The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinners. Get up! Let's go. The one who will betray me is already here."**

Hymn *"Go To Dark Gethsemane"* ELW#347 v.1-2

- 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 suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.**

**Eric:** Jesus was still speaking, when Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a mob armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the high priests, the teachers of the Law, and the elders. The traitor had given the mob a signal:

**"The man I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him, tie him up, and lead him away."**

Judas walked right up to Jesus and kissed him and said,

**"Teacher!"**

They grabbed Jesus and arrested him. Someone standing there drew a sword. He struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Jesus said to the mob,

**"Why did you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like a robber? I was with you day after day teaching in the temple and you didn't arrest me. However, what the Scriptures say must come true."**

All (of Jesus' disciples) ran off and left him. One of them was a young man, wearing only a linen cloth—when the men grabbed him, he left the cloth behind and ran away naked. Jesus was led off to the high priest. Then the high priests, the elders, and the teachers of the Law all met together. Peter had followed at a distance. And when he reached the courtyard of the high priest's house, he sat down with the guards to warm himself beside a fire. The chief priests and the whole council tried to find witnesses to accuse him of a crime deserving the death penalty, but they couldn't find any. Many told lies against Jesus, but their testimony didn't agree. Some stood up and made a false accusation, saying,

**"We heard him say, " I will tear down this temple made with hands and after three days I will build another made with without hands."**

But even these witnesses did not agree.

The high priest stood up in front of them all and asked Jesus,

**"Don't you have anything to say to these accusations against you?"**



But Jesus kept quiet and would not say a word. The high priest asked him another question,

**"Are you the anointed one, the Son of the Blessed one?"**

Jesus said,

**"I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Almighty, and coming with the clouds of heaven."**

At once the high priest tore his robe and said,

**"Why do we need more witnesses? You heard the blasphemy! What is your decision?"**

They all agreed that he should be put to death. Some people started spitting on Jesus. They blindfolded him, hit him with their fists, and said,

**"Prophecy! Tell us who hit you!"**

Then the guards took charge of Jesus and beat him.

**PC:** Meanwhile, Peter was still in the courtyard. A servant girl of the high priest came by and saw Peter warming himself by the fire. She stared at him and said,

**"You were with Jesus from Nazareth!"**

Peter denied it and said,

**"I don't know what you're talking about. I don't have any idea what you mean."**

He went out to the gate, and a rooster crowed. The servant girl saw Peter again and said to the bystanders,

**"He is one of them!"**

But he denied it again. A little while later some of the bystanders said to Peter,

**"It's true. You are one of them – because you're a Galilean!"**

Peter began to curse and swear,

**"I don't even know the man you're talking about!"**

Suddenly, the rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had told him,

**"Before a rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you don't know me."**

So Peter broke down and cried. (pause)

**Eric:** Early the next morning the high priests, the elders, and the teachers of the Law met with the whole council. They tied up Jesus and led him off to Pilate. Pilate questioned Jesus,

**"Are you the king of the Jews?"**

Jesus answered,

**"Those are your words."**

The chief priests brought many charges against Jesus. Then Pilate questioned him again,

**"Don't you have anything to say? Listen to all their accusations!"**

But Jesus said nothing more, and Pilate was amazed.

During Passover, Pilate always freed one prisoner chosen by the people. At that time there was a prisoner named Barabbas. He was one of the rebels arrested during a riot that involved murder. The crowd now came and asked Pilate to set a prisoner free, just as he usually did. Pilate asked them,

**"Do you want me to free the king of the Jews?"**

Pilate knew that the high priests had brought Jesus to him because they were jealous. But the high priests stirred up the crowd to ask Pilate to free Barabbas. Then Pilate asked the crowd,

**"What do you want me to do with this man you call the king of the Jews?"**

They yelled,

**"Crucify him!"**

Pilate asked,

**"But what crime has he done?"**

They shouted back,

**"Crucify him!"**

Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free and handed Jesus over to be whipped and nailed to a cross.

**Hymn "Ah, Holy Jesus" ELW#349 v.1-2**

**1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended that we to judge thee have in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.**

**2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.**

**PC:** The soldiers led Jesus inside the courtyard of the governor's palace and called together the rest of the troops. They put a purple robe on Jesus, and on his head they placed a crown woven out of thorn branches. They began to salute him:

**"Long live the king of the Jews!"**

Then they hit him on the head with a stick. They spit on him and pretended to bow down and worship him. When the soldiers had finished mocking Jesus,

they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. On the way they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. Simon was from Cyrene and was the father of Alexander and Rufus.

The soldiers took Jesus to Golgotha, which means "Place of a Skull." There they offered him wine mixed with myrrh to ease the pain, but he refused to drink it. They nailed Jesus to a cross and divided his clothes among themselves, throwing dice to see who would get which piece of clothing. It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed him to the cross. On it was a sign that told why he was being crucified. It read, "This is the King of the Jews." They also crucified two robbers, one to the right of Jesus and one on his left. People passing shook their heads and hurled insults at him, and said,

**"Aha! So you're the one who claimed you could tear down the temple and build it again in three days. Save yourself and come down from the cross!"**

The high priests and the teachers of the Law also made fun of Jesus. They said to each other,

**"He saved others, but he can't save himself. If he is the anointed king of Israel, let him come down from the cross! When we see that we will believe him."**

The two crucified alongside of him also said insulting things to Jesus. About noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until around three o'clock. At about three o'clock Jesus called out loud, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means,

**"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"**

Some of the people standing there heard Jesus and said,

**"Listen! He is calling for Elijah."**

Someone ran to get a sponge and soaked it with sponge in cheap wine. He put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus. He said,

**"Let's wait and see if Elijah will come and take him down!"**

With a loud cry, Jesus died.

**Eric:** *(moment of silence)* Just then the curtain covering the holiest part of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. A Roman army officer was standing in front of Jesus. When the officer saw how Jesus died, he said,

**"This man really was the Son of God!"**

Some women were there, watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joseph, and Salome. They had followed Jesus while he was in Galilee and had served him. Many other women who had come to Jerusalem with him were there also.

**Hymn** "Were You There" *ELW#353 v. 1, 5*

- 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

Evening was coming and it was time to make preparations for the Sabbath. A man named Joseph from Arimathea was brave enough to ask Pilate for the body of Jesus. Joseph was a highly respected member of the council, and he was also waiting for God's kingdom to come. Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead. He called in the army officer to find out if Jesus had been dead very long. After hearing the officer's report, Pilate let Joseph have Jesus' body. Joseph bought a linen cloth and took the body down from the cross. He had it wrapped in the cloth, and he put it in a tomb that had been dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were watching and saw where the body was placed. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Eric: Confession of Faith** (*Ask Assembly to Stand*)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith in the words of the Nicene 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.**

**Eric & PC: Prayers of the People**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

**Petition:** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**Announcements** (*Please sit*)

**Offering** "*There is a Green hill Far Away*" arr. Joseph M. Martin

**Offertory "Glory to You" ACS p.31 v.2 (Please Stand)**

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

**Offering Prayer (Eric)**

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, **we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.**

**Blessing (PC)**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW #338 v.1-2**

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land, a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.
- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

## **Sending (Eric)**

Go in peace. Share your bread.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude -Linda Ranney**

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- The Passion According to Mark: A reading for the Congregation based on various English translations of the Bible and the Greek New Testament.

**Altar Flowers:** In memory of Lorraine Mastin by Dauneen & Curt Amundson.

### **Serving at worship today:**

Pastor – Rev. Christine Emerson

Worship Assistant – Eric Nielsen

Lector: Margaret Kinderman

Acolytes – Gracelyn Boeckmann, Reese Boeckmann

Nursery Attendant – Paige Burrows

Ushers – Norbert Kirk, Randy Lundblad

Greeter – Kurt Kjelstad, Arlene McAdam

Communion Servers – Jenna Boeckmann, Louise Alt, Julie Kersten, Dianna Hogenson

Camera System – Scott Olsen

Power Point- Brett Isaacson

Musicians- Linda Ranney, organ/piano, Mark Lundin, Director of Music, St. John’s Choir