

Palm-Passion Sunday

Sunday, March 24, 2024 (10:30 a.m.)

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316**

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"The Holy City"
Vivian Rupert, soprano

S. Adams

OPENING PROCLAMATION

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **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.

(Mark 11:1-11)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

[Please lift your palms.] Bless these palms and those who lift 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.**

GATHERING HYMN

“The Palms”

J. Faure

1. O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festive preparation,
Where Jesus comes, to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.

Refrain:

Join all and sing His name declare,
Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation,
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord!
Bless Him, who cometh to bring us salvation!

2. His word goes forth, and people by its might
Once more their freedom gain from degradation,
Humanity doth give to each his right,
While those in darkness find restored the light. *[Refrain]*

3. Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,
Thro' boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith the hope to thee forevermore. *[Refrain]*

CLOSING PROCLAMATION

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world, 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.**

WORD

A READING FROM ISAIAH

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 wakens—
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? (Isaiah 50:4-9a)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16 (Read responsively)

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

¹¹I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,

a dismay to those of my acquaintance;

when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;**

I am as useless as a broken pot.

¹³For 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.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.**

I have said, “You are my God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies,

and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Make your face to shine upon your servant,**

and in your lovingkindness save me.”

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

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

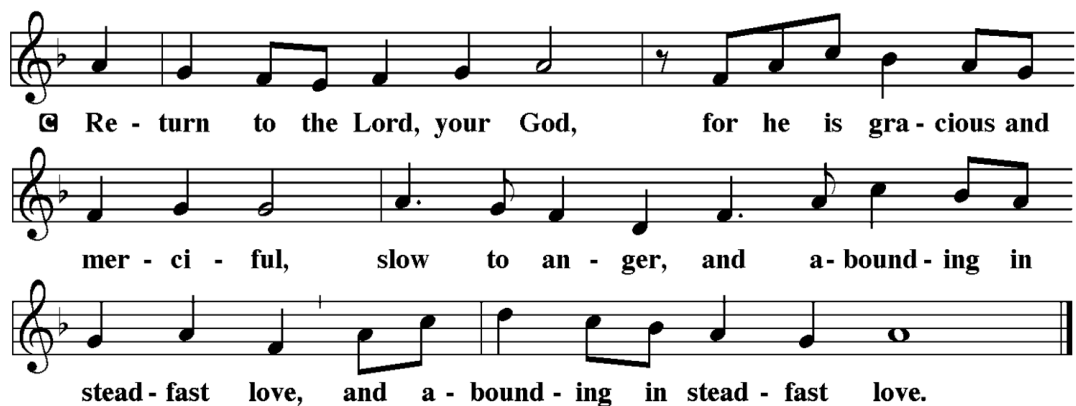
every knee should bend,

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. (Philippians 2:5-11)

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[The congregation is invited to read aloud the boldface portions of this narrative.]

NARRATOR: It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

CHIEF PRIESTS: Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.

NARRATOR: While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

CROWD: Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.

NARRATOR: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

JESUS: Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the

good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

NARRATOR: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, the disciples said to Jesus,

DISCIPLES: Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

NARRATOR: So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

JESUS: Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.

NARRATOR: So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

JESUS: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

NARRATOR: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

DISCIPLES: Surely, not I?

NARRATOR: Jesus said to them,

JESUS: It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

NARRATOR: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

JESUS: Take; this is my body.

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

JESUS: This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

JESUS: You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: Even though all become deserters, I will not.

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

NARRATOR: But Peter said vehemently,

PETER: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

NARRATOR: And all of them said the same. They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples,

JESUS: Sit here while I pray.

NARRATOR: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them,

JESUS: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

JESUS: Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.

NARRATOR: Jesus came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

NARRATOR: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

JESUS: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

NARRATOR: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.

NARRATOR: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

JUDAS: Rabbi!

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.

NARRATOR: All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked. They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

CROWD: We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’

NARRATOR: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

HIGH PRIEST: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

NARRATOR: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

HIGH PRIEST: Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?

NARRATOR: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

CHIEF PRIESTS: Prophecy!

NARRATOR: The guards also took him over and beat him. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

NARRATOR: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: I do not know or understand what you are talking about.

NARRATOR: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

SERVANT GIRL: This man is one of them.

NARRATOR: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

CROWD: Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.

NARRATOR: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: I do not know this man you are talking about.

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept. 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. Pilate asked him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: He answered him,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

PILATE: "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

NARRATOR: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked.

Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

PILATE: "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

PILATE: "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: They shouted back,

CROWD: "Crucify him!"

NARRATOR: Pilate asked them,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CROWD: "Crucify him!"

NARRATOR: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

SOLDIERS: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. 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. 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.

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the 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 clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

BYSTANDERS: "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

NARRATOR: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: which means,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

BYSTANDERS: "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

NARRATOR: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

BYSTANDERS: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

NARRATOR: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

[- Silence -]

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARRATOR: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When evening had come, and 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 waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead,

he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid. (Mark 14:43-15:47)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

[See back of bulletin]

THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
He 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

A brief silence.

Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, and gardeners. We pray for the health of everything that you have filled with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Establish peace and justice among nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send hope to any who feel lost or forgotten. Protect those who flee violence and oppression. Comfort those who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care. Heal all who suffer, especially everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give energy and joy to our pastor, lay leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

OFFERING

ANTHEM

"On That Day When He Rode into Jerusalem"

M. K. Beall

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Come to the Table"

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, you do not feed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and all that you have given into our care that this feast that we share might be transformed into a bountiful feast that welcomes all, in the name of Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

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

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,—

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Bless - ed— is he who comes in the name of the Lord.— Ho-

san-na in— the high - est, ho-san-na in— the high - est.

BLESSING AT THE TABLE

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (read in unison)

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

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

INSTRUCTIONS

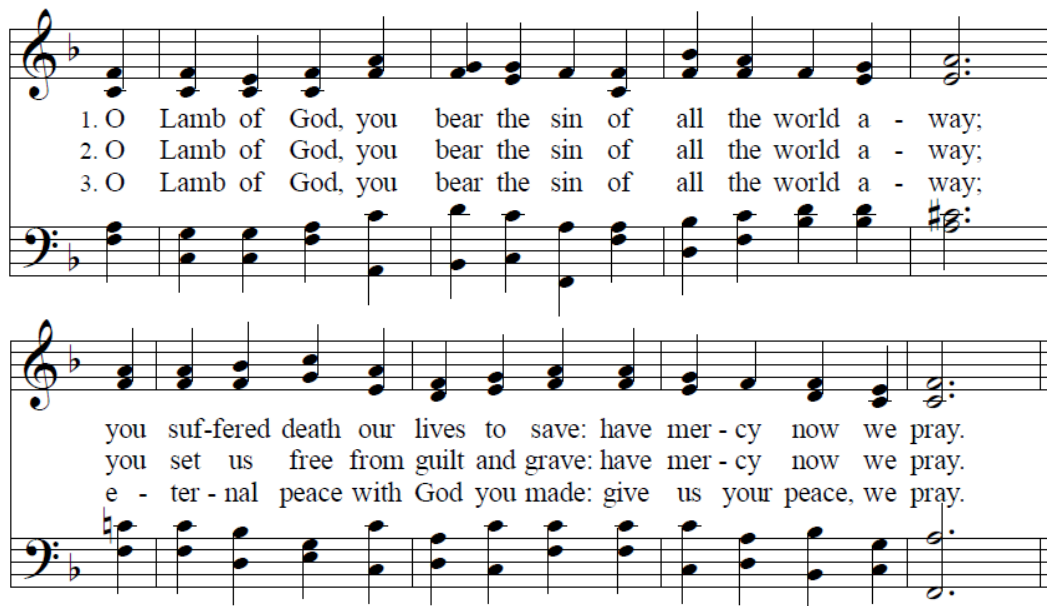
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. After you have received the Sacrament, you may choose to briefly stand at the chancel rail before returning to your seat.

If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, “A blessing,” or cross your arms over your chest.

Those who are unable to come forward should indicate that they wish to receive the Sacrament and they will receive it as they sit in their pew.

Communion is shared with those seated on the pulpit side and then with those on the lectern side.

AGNUS DEI



1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Were You There”

[See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and as a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!”

[See back of the bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Trust in God's love and mercy. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Behold the King"

F. Ritter

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Bulletins are presented in memory of Frank Kamp by Tina Butler and Victoria and Alexandria Spitler.

Introduction to the Day: Each Sunday is a celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection, and the Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday is no different. Though we separately commemorate events from Jesus' life, it is also important to remember that the paschal mystery of Jesus' dying and rising is at the heart of every eucharist, regardless of the season. Perhaps no other day holds this tension more clearly than the Sunday of the Passion. As jarring as it can be to move from the joyful hosannas of the palm procession to the loud cries of "crucify him," this is not only the paradox of the Jesus story but the reality of the human condition and the path to transformation. Rather than separate death and resurrection, it might be more helpful to think of them as an intertwined mystery. No Sunday of the church year so clearly marks the death of Jesus and the presence of the risen Christ in the eucharist than this Lord's Day.

SERVING TODAY – PALM SUNDAY (3/24/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Doug Tavor; USHERS: Jerry Goessel and Jeff Ritschel;

LECTOR: Tom Wehr; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Cindy Ritschel

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

SERVING MAUNDY THURSDAY (3/28/24 at 7:00 PM)

GREETER: TBA; USHER: Carl Heintzelman; LECTOR: Mike Lado;

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Tom Wehr

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

SERVING GOOD FRIDAY (3/29/24 at 7:00 PM)

GREETER: TBA; USHER: Connie Teter; Lector: Pastor Mike

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY -- EASTER (3/31/2024)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Tina Butler

USHERS: Amy Dewald, Becky Smoot, Victoria Spitler, and Barb Sterner

LECTOR: Tina Butler; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Pat Kunkle

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Glenda Bright

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, March 24

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

8:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday, March 27

6:00 PM Bell Choir

7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 28

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion

Friday, March 29

GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 PM Stations (or Way) of the Cross

Saturday, March 30

HOLY SATURDAY

5:30-7:00 PM Silent Prayer, Meditation, and Reflection

Sunday, March 31

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER)

8:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNED

Volunteers are needed for STiC's up-coming Earth Day event scheduled for Friday April 12 and Saturday, April 13, 2024. A description of events and sign-up sheet is available in the gathering room. For more information, please contact Sue Reier at 570-617-3741.

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - ges - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

KEEP IT UP!

Please continue to sign cards for members who cannot worship with us in person (e.g., those with chronic health problems, military personnel, and college students far from home.) These cards are in the back of our sanctuary on the small table. This small kindness can bring a smile and lift the spirits of someone -- who might just need some encouragement and support!

COMMUNION HYMN

“Were You There?”

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Refrain
Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum will not be meet TODAY, Sunday, March 24 or on Easter Sunday, March 31. We will resume on Sunday, April 7.

SENDING HYMN

“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!”

1. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the tribes ho -
2. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly pomp ride
3. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! The wing - ed squad - rons
4. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! Your last and fierc - est
5. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly pomp ride

san - na cry; Your hum - ble beast pur - sues his way
on to die: O Christ, your tri - umphs now be - gin
of the sky Look down with sad and won - dering eyes
strife is nigh; The Fa - ther on his sap - phire throne
on to die; Bow your meek head to mor - tal pain,

Where crowds the palms and gar - ments lay.
O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
To see th' ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
Ex - pects his own a - noint - ed Son.
Then take, O God, your power, and reign. A - men.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL IS TODAY!

Our Second Sunday School class will take place Sunday, April 14. Children ages 1-10 are welcome to come upstairs during the 10:30 a.m. service and students ages 11 to 18 are invited to take part from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. with our Teen group.

Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell)
swoodring86@hotmail.com.

WELCA NEWS

St. Paul's women are invited and encouraged to attend the Spring Cluster event of the Women of the ELCA Schuylkill County District which will be held on Saturday, April 13 at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hegins. Details are available on the WELCA bulletin board. There is a sign-up sheet along with an envelope for your check to cover the cost. Carpooling will be available. Easter Sunday is the last day to register.

At the WELCA meeting on April 9, Amy Lafko will share highlights of her recent visit to Egypt and Jordan.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP

Our Maundy Thursday, March 28, we will gather at 7:00 p.m., as we reflect upon the events of our Lord's Last Supper. The Sharing of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar are part of this special service.

We will share a "Stations (or Way) of the Cross" service on Good Friday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. Our worship will focus on our Lord's passion and death as described in the four Gospels. During this service, Scriptures will be read and hymns will be sung that remind us of the terrible price our Lord paid for the sin of the world.

On Holy Saturday, March 30, we will meet at 5:30 p.m. to pray together and meditate upon God's Word, as we have listened to during Holy Week.

We will joyously worship together on the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday) on March 31 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Our worship will be filled with festive music as we celebrate the most timeless and blessed news, "Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!"

Please worship with us and ask your family and friends to join you!

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please consider worshiping with us after the holidays. Take a copy of our March newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube. And get to know us better!

We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship and work together here -- to the glory of God!

PALM DEDICATIONS

In honor of...

Our daughters by Steve and Robin Zimmerman
James P Withers by Wayne and Ruth Ann Withers

In memory of...

The Snyder and Long Families by Krista Harding
Guy and Frances Lengel by their son, James Lengel and the Lengel Family
G. Roger Lengel and John A. Lengel, my brothers, by James Lengel and the Lengel Family
Russell and Rachel Zehner by Sonny and Connie Teter

To the Glory of God by Tom and Gwen Wehr



OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

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Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
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