

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday
Sunday of the Passion



Introduction to the day

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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

C: Hosanna in the highest.

PROFESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

P: The holy gospel according to Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Entrance into the final days

²⁸After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'"³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it."³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As 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, ³⁸saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray

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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSION *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* 344 verses 1,3, and 5

The Palms

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

Refrain

**Join now and sing, His name divine.
Let every voice resound with joyous 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 for 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 songs sing the emancipation;
Through boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings forth the hope to thee forevermore. REFRAIN.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P : In the name of God, ☩
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.
Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience amid persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

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?

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:9-16

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

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, 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**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

Responding in Love

Our Offerings *This is our response to God's grace.*

Our Offering of Music

CHOIR ANTHEM *Hosanna We Sing*

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL Luke 22:14--23:56

Through the teachings and events of the passion story we see and hear the great contradictions that characterize the coming of God's reign. The leader serves the followers, proud Peter is revealed in his cowardice, and Jesus—the innocent bringer of life—is arrested, beaten, executed, and buried.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus according to the Gospel of St. Luke. See insert

Readers

Serving-maid -- Kaye Long

First Challenger - Pam Wehler

Jesus - Deb Heydrich

Centurion - volunteer needed

Peter - Carl Shaffer

Second Challenger - Dawn McCloskey

Pilate - volunteer needed.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *My Song Is Love Unknown* 343 verses 1-4

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to follow Jesus in the way of the cross. Make us unflinching servants of the gospel. Deliver us from hardship as we confront the forces of injustice and practice radical compassion. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For the earth and all its inhabitants, created in love: Train us to recognize your divine goodness in the world around us. Rouse in us a reverence for creation, that we take greater care of its resources. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For those in positions of authority called to lead with integrity and compassion: Supply them with courage and vulnerability when challenged with new ideas. Deliver them from fear that limits imagination and impedes justice. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For those who suffer, waiting expectantly for mercy and consolation: Accompany those who feel abandoned or betrayed, defend those who are wrongly accused, and embrace those who are incarcerated or detained. Heal those who are ill (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For Christians around the world, preparing this week to journey with Jesus to the cross: Reveal to us once again the earthshaking power of humble service, unmerited forgiveness, and sacrificial love. Lead us all from death to life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For the campers and staff at Camp Mount Luther, help the staff to share Christ and plant seeds in the lives of those who come to this place set apart. Open the minds of the children, youth, and adults who attend, so that they can encounter you in new and exciting ways. Help

them to experience the beauty of your creation and come back to the congregation, ready to live a life of discipleship and service to you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We remember those who have died (*especially Mikael Agricola and . . .*), who were commended into your hands. Remember us when you come into your kingdom, and prepare a place for each of us with you in paradise. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144 (*in the beginning of the hymnal*)

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you said; "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

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: Here is food and drink for the journey.
Take and be filled.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen.

Communion Song *Lamb of God You Take Away p.146*

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Remember Me

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God, majestic, and mighty,
☩ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Were You There* 353

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ.”

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Dave Barner, Mary Bower, Mike Cervinsky, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, William Greene, Fred Hoffer, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Jean Ann Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany. Pray for Peace in Ukraine and an end to war.

Special thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers – Bill Ely Jr and Ken Dougherty;; Head Usher – Cozette Stoltzfus; Teller –Jim Ely; Bulletin Sponsor – Jim Ely ; Children’s Church – Molly Hollick.

Next week’s helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers—Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Cozette Stoltzfus; Teller –Jim Ely; Bulletin Sponsor – Jim Ely; Children’s Church – Cathy Eisner.

The altar flowers and palms are given in memory of Mitch Hollick by Jon and Molly Hollick.

The Sanctuary Candle is given in memory of our parents by Gary and Gina Johnson.

HELP NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL !!! Summer is approaching fast. It is St John’s year to host Bible School. We earnestly need a volunteer to HEAD VBS! Four other churches join us. We need a volunteer to organize the five churches by setting up meetings with representatives from those churches. The women of St. Johns will work, support, and assist, but

we need a **VOLUNTEER TO HEAD** Vacation Bible School this summer. Questions or concerns can be directed to Pastor Aucker (570) 916-1317 or Gloria Ely (570) 873-3597. Please pray that someone is moved to accept this position so that we can have Bible School.

Dean Ely requests that all **Easter Breakfast Supplies** be delivered to the church kitchen at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 16.

PLEASE HELP THE EASTER BUNNY !! Candy donations are needed for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 16. Please turn in your donations by Tuesday, April 12.

The Lutheran Church Women's Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran.

Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597 Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-28

Just a reminder: **The deadline for applications to Camp Mt. Luther is TODAY.** If you are an active youth of St. John, we encourage you to attend Camp Mt. Luther. Applications are available on the bench of the Thompson street entrance. Applications **MUST** be returned to the church office by April 10.

Lent Services

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:00 p.m., St. John Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 15, 7:00 p.m., St. James Lutheran, "Stations of the Cross"

Easter Sunrise, April 17, 6:00 a.m. with Fairplay Brass and breakfast, and 9:30 a.m., St. John Sanctuary.

SAVE THE DATE! May 21, 2022 a Spring Housecleaning is being planned for the church. More information and sign-up sheets early in May.

Payments for Sight and Sound "DAVID" February 6 - \$65.00; May 1 - \$65.00 and the final payment June 17 - \$60 Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. The show is August 6, 2022 -- Children 10 and under \$125.00; Adults \$190.00. Joyce Braucht.

Youth Ministry

Easter Egg Hunt Our annual egg hunt for the elementary children will be held on Saturday, April 16 at 11:00 a.m. Middle and High School Youth please report at 9:00 to help prepare

Youth Group for all Middle School and High School Youth

April 25, 6:00 p.m. Theme: Earth Day and God's Creation. Supper provided.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Children's Church begins
- 9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. First Communion Instruction

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

- 10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 14, 2022

- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday, St. John Sanctuary

Friday, April 15, 2022 Good Friday

- 7:00 p.m., St. James Lutheran, "Stations of the Cross"

Saturday, April 16, 2022

- 9:00 a.m. Youth prepare for Egg Hunt
- 10:00 a.m. supplies for Easter Breakfast to kitchen
- 11:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for elementary age children

Sunday, April 17, 2022 *Resurrection of our Lord Easter Day*

- 6:00 a.m. Sunrise service with Fairplay Brass and breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Nave Worship with baptisms

