

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

Sunday, April 2, 2022

Palm Sunday
Sunday of the Passion



Introduction to the day

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

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 Bethpage 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.**

**3. His word goes forth, and people by its might
Once more their freedom gains for degradation;
Humanity doth give to each his right
While those in darkness find restored the light. REFRAIN**

**5. 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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.
Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✠ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD: GOD speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Isaiah.

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

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.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

PSALM: 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."**

L: A reading from Philippians.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

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.

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 St Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Jesus	Darlene Bilby	Judas	Ken Dougherty	Peter	Carl Schaefer
Witness	Linda Umstead	High Priest	Mike Aldridge	Servant	Chuck Gottschall
Pilate	Shelby Rice				

SERMON “He Rode into Jerusalem on a Donkey”

The assembly stands

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Were You There?* 353

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

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.

A: 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.

A: 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 (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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 (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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.

A: Save all the peoples. Help our Global Health partners to discover ways to train community health workers, and mobilize community-based efforts that improve health. Guide those communities in adapting healthy habits which will help prevent deadly diseases. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: 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.

Amen.

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**

THE LORD'S PRAYER p 145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

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: Embodied God,
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**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Tree of Sorrow*

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Jim Allen, Donna Batschelet, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Mick Miller, David Mitchell (WeCares of Loyalsock), Cora Pelletier, Shane family, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton – ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and we pray for peace in Ukraine and an end to war; those effected by the tornadoes and flooding and snow.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Special thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers –Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Shane Snyder; Teller –Dawn McCloskey; Bulletin Sponsor—Pastor and Mrs. Aucker.

Next week’s helper: Lector –Karen Aucker; Assisting Ministers—Bill Ely Jr and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher – Shane Snyder; Teller – Dawn McCloskey; Sponsor –Pastor and Mrs. Aucker; Flowers—Shelby Rice

The flowers on our altar are in honor of Bob Braucht's birthday by Joyce, Kristen, Tracey, Isaac and Loudon.

The Sanctuary Candle in April is in memory of loved ones by Pastor and Mrs. Aucker.

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 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

MANY THANKS for the cards, calls, food, prayers and love given during my recent surgery. I did very well and I'm sure it's because of all your positive thoughts! Love Becky

THANKS To Julie Bowes for the donation of a book case to the Sunday School!

PLEASE HELP THE EASTER BUNNY !! Candy donations are needed for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8. Please turn in your donations by Tuesday, April 4.

EASTER SUNRISE BREAKFAST - Plans are being made and phone calls are going out to have our breakfast after the early service. Some volunteers are needed following the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 to set up the room. After the hunt, please stay a few minutes to help set up table and chairs.

Pictorial Directory

The last pictorial directory of the members of St. John Lutheran was created in 2009. Over the past fourteen years we have had a number of changes with births, new members, and deaths, along with the pandemic that had a significant impact upon us. It was suggested that we create a new pictorial directory so people have a visual picture of our members.

We also need information from you to verify what we have on file. We have no birthdates on some people. We have a lot of young adults who moved away from home but we have no addresses, phone numbers or emails for them. Just their parent's address.

So, we are asking each of you to send us a photo of yourselves and send it by email to St. John Lutheran Church at: stjohn@stjl.org

Please take a close-up photo of ourselves or your family. Use your cell phone or have someone else take your photo and email it to St. John. Please send us a close-up photo. A dot standing out in the field will not show your smiley face.

Please also send us your address, email, and phone number to update the directory and make sure it is accurate. A number of people provided their home phone number years ago but have since discontinued their home phone and use only their cell phones. If you do not want your cell phone listed, please note that when you send us your photo and information

Current church directories are always available without photos. Just ask Pastor to print one out for you. It only takes a few minutes. Remember the directory is only as good as the information that we have available.

Special Thanks to Shelby Rice for volunteering to coordinate the pictorial directory project. Contact her for any information regarding photos. You can text your pictures directly to Shelby 570.506.4934

This bulletin and more can be found on church site www.stjl.org

Spring Cash Sunday will be held on May 7 this year. Donations will be used for a new speaker in the front of the sanctuary to improve the audio in our recorded worship services. A Spring Cash Sunday envelope will be mailed to every household in the congregation in April. A return envelope can be used for your donation. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Our on-going Needs. Sponsors sheets are available on the second-floor tower bulletin board for the Sanctuary Candle, Weekly Bulletins, Flowers, and Bread Donors (starting in April). You can sponsor any of the above by placing your name on the sponsor sheets and they will be listed in the bulletin. Enclose money in your offering envelope: Sanctuary candle \$6; Weekly bulletin \$10; Flowers provided by Russell Florists (\$50), or use our beautiful arrangement of silk flowers \$25; or you can provide your own. If you wish to provide your own, please contact Mrs. Aucker. Payment should be made to “St. John Lutheran Church.”

Youth Ministry

Camp Mt. Luther is seeking adult camp counselors for the summer camping season. You must be a high school graduate this summer and have experience working with children and youth. Check the Camp Mount Luther website for information.

Camp Mt. Luther has a new way to send out their summer camp flyers and registration. There is a QR code available here at the church on the bulletin board and in the annual report that you scan and read. You can download the registration, medical, and other forms from the QR code.

Turn in registrations to Molly Hollick. **Deadline is April 9**

LENTEN SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 pm at St. John Lutheran

Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, April 7 at St. James Lutheran

Easter Vigil Egg Hunt for the children, April 8 at 11:00 am.

Set up for Easter Sunrise Breakfast following the Egg Hunt

Easter Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, April 9, 6:00 am and 9:30 am, St. John Lutheran

Easter Sunrise Breakfast following the 6:00 a.m. service

Holy Humor Sunday, April 16, 9:30 a.m. The Blues Brothers will return to St.

John! “Holy Humor Sunday” celebrations of Jesus’ resurrection on the Sunday after Easter. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. ***Please plan to wear tie dye or very bright colors!***

Calendar

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Church and Worship Service
- 2:00 p.m. Catechism Class

Monday, April 3, 2023

- 7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

- 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

- 9:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Life-Line Screening
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Resumes!

Saturday, April 8, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Youth Gather to Prepare
- 11:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
- 11:20 a.m. Need Youth and Parents to assist with arranging tables and chairs for breakfast

Sunday, April 9, 2023

Easter

- 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service with the Fairplay Brass
 - 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Baptisms
- DEADLINE FOR CAMP REGISTRATIONS. Turn applications into Molly Hollick today.

