

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

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday



Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.

Introduction to the day

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

The assembly stands

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:

P: The holy gospel according to St Mark

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Processional Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

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

**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.**

**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**

**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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,

God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,

and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

Kyrie p. 138 (front of hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**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.**

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 image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the
mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at
his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

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.

Let us read responsively by verse the Psalm.

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.

**¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”**

L: A reading from Hebrews

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

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 p.142

*Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding instead fast love.*

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus according to the Gospel of St. Mark.

Readers

Jesus -- Darlene Bilby Peter -- Nathan Klugh Judas --
High Priest -- Carl Schaefer Servant Girl--Shelby Rice Pilate-- Deb Heydrich
Bystander -- Cozette Stoltzfus Centurion -- Karen Aucker

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross* 335

THE NICENE CREED p. 104 *in the front of the hymnal*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Establish peace and justice among the nations (*regions in conflict may be named*). 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Give energy and joy to our pastor/s, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers (*individuals preparing for baptism and confirmation may be named*). Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, you made the heavens, the earth, the seas, and all that fills your glorious creation. Send your spirit upon all those who are thinking of attending Camp Mount Luther this summer. Invite them out into your beautiful wilderness that they may come to know the wideness of your love. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Hosanna We Sing*

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

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

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy p. 144

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

THE LORD'S PRAYER P 145 *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

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 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: Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

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 SONG: *Were You There* 353

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

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, Jim Allen, Connie Barker, Danny Bennett, Maisy Boyles, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Ben Saar, Pam Shuler, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Michael Burk Presiding Bishop Pro Temp --ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

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, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Rich 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 next weeks' helpers: Lector --Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers --Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher --Jim Ely; Teller--Mike Aldridge; Bulletin Sponsor--Kathy Ulmer-Horne; Children's Church--Holly Dittmar.

Next week's helpers: Lector --Pam Wehler; Assisting Ministers--Karen Aucker and Cozette Stoltzfus; Head Usher --Jim Ely; Teller--Mike Aldridge; Bulletin Sponsor--; Flowers-- Barb Hoffman

This week's flowers are to the glory of God and in memory of my husband by Joyce Hudson.

The Sanctuary Candle in March is in honor of Pastor and Karen Aucker by Bill and Cindy Ferguson.

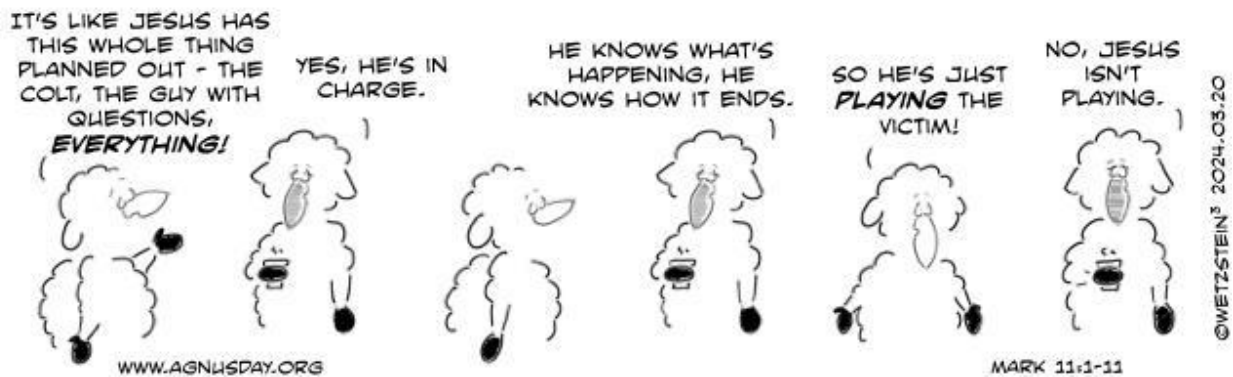
Women of the Church will meet Sunday, April 7, 2024 after worship.

Anyone interested in joining a texting prayer chain please text Christine Barner at 570-360-0178. This texting chain will send out the prayers that are received for the calling prayer chain. This chain is a one-way chain, please do not "reply" when you receive a message.

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.

Donations of Easter Candy is needed for the Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, March 30 at 11 a.m. Please bring the candy to the office by March 24.

The Christian Education committee will meet immediately following the service in the adult Sunday School room.



Calendar

- Sunday, March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday
 - 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
 - 10:30 a.m. Christian Ed Committee
 - 1:00 p.m. Nippenose Worship
- Monday, March 25, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Wednesday, March 27, 2024
 - 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:00 p.m. Maudy Thursday Service
- Friday, March 29, 2024 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service at St. James
- Saturday, March 30, 2024 Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00
- Sunday, March 31, 2024 Resurrection of Our Lord
 - 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service with Fairplay Brass
 - 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service