

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

9:30 am



Welcome to worship. We are glad you are here and hope you will spend as much of Holy Week with us as you can. You and your friends are welcome here—always. Please keep the back cover for yourself or give it to a friend as it has the Holy Week schedule of worship services.



Palm Sunday 2024

Welcome!

And a special greeting to those who are our guests this morning! We ask that you fill out a yellow visitor's card (available from the ushers) if you would like information about Messiah sent to you. You may put it in the offering basket or hand it to an usher or greeter. Please linger for a while after worship so we can get to know one another!

A nursery is available down the hall, last door on the right. Rest rooms are also down the hall to the right.

Messiah Lutheran Church

303 Route 101

PO Box 488

Amherst, New Hampshire

603.673.2011 www.messiahnh.org

Ministers: All God's people at Messiah

Rev. Karl Hester, Pastor

Jon Abrams, Music Director

WORDS OF WELCOME

Reading of Matthew 21:1-11



PROCESSION WITH PALMS (*Weather permitting outside*)

ENTRANCE HYMN “*All Glory, Laud And Honor*” ELW 344

Refrain

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

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

Refrain

The company of angels are praising you on high; creation and
all mortals in chorus make reply.

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King.

Refrain

GREETING

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ☩, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All:**
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

One: Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the
human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ.
By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those
who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with
their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

ELW 264 Prepare the Royal Highway

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a , NRSV

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?

PSALM 31:9-16

One: Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I ^l am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my
throat ^l and my belly.

**All: For my life is wasted with grief, and my ^l years with
sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and
my bones ^l are consumed.**

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

**All: Like the dead I am forgotten, ^l out of mind; I
am as useless as a ^l broken pot.**

One: For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is ^l
all around; they put their heads together against
me; they plot to ^l take my life.

**All: But as for me, I have trusted in ¹ you, O LORD.
I have said, “You ¹ are my God.**

One: My times are ¹ in your hand; rescue me from the hand of
my enemies, and from those who ¹ persecute me.

**All: Let your face shine up- ¹ on your servant;
save me in your ¹ steadfast love.”**

SECOND READING Philippians 2:5-11 , NRSV

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

One: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 14th chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL Mark 14:1-11, NRSV

¹⁴ 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; ² for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

³ 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. ⁴ But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good

service for me. ⁷ 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. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹ 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.”

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹ 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.


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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Karl Hester

HYMN OF THE DAY "Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW 264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.




Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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One: Together we confess our faith in the words of the

Apostles Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

See Insert

One: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

OFFERING PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERING SONG

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The song concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

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One: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

DIALOGUE

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

One: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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

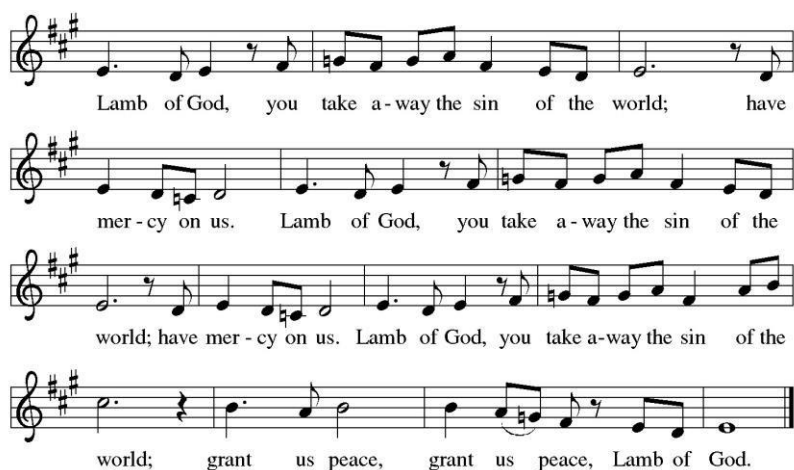
COMMUNION

Please come forward in the center aisle to receive the bread.

If you need gluten free, please let the pastor know when you come up. The move to the side to receive wine (outer rings) or grape juice (inner rings) of the tray. Please dispose of your used cup in the basket at the end of the aisle on the way to returning to your seat via the side aisle

All who believe Jesus is present in the wine and bread, and who believe in the words, "Given and shed for you," are prepared to receive the gift of communion. Those who wish may come up for a blessing instead. Keeping your hands folded will signal that.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN *CCLI song 1454269 Messiah (insert)*
Dakota Road Music/Larry Olson

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

One: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ ☐
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

One: Compassionate God,

All: you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

One: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

All: Amen


ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

ELW 345 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



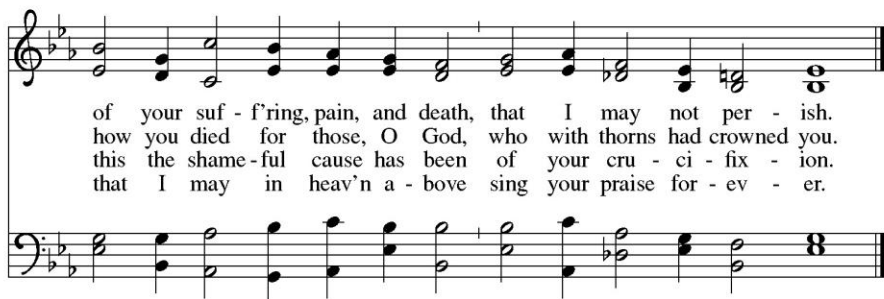
1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
 2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
 4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,



let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
 bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
 but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
 nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
 make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
 For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
 May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.
 how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
 this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
 that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

DISMISSAL

One: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE ELW 345 interpreted by Jon Abrams

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Presider: | Pastor Karl Hester |
| Liturgist: | Karla Seckinger |
| Musicians: | Jon Abrams, Chris Carr |
| Reader: | Glenn De Noble |
| Tech: | Kenneth Duesing |
| Head Counter: | Kenneth Duesing |
| Altar: | Marge Ball |
| Bread: | Dave and Lynn Schur |
| Ushers & Greeters: | Dave and Lynn Schur |
| Snacks: | Connie Wisneski |

Thank you to all who faithfully give of their time, talents and treasures to support the ministry of Messiah and to help us be able to worship and serve to the glory of God.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

| | March 31 st Easter Sunday | April 7 th 2 nd Sunday of Easter |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Liturgist | T. Costa | Doreen Rinas |
| Reader | K. Brundage | T. Costa |
| Ushers & Greeters | G. De Noble C. Hoeni | Costas |
| Altar | Scholz | R. Meldrum |
| Bread | T. Costa | Retelle |
| Tech | R. Neukam | David Rinas |
| Snacks | Brunch | Schurs |
| Head Counter | B. Mitchell | Retelle |

Announcements:

Easter Flowers If you would like to drop off flowers for the altar for Easter and place a dedication for a loved one, either in memory of or in honor of, please fill out on sheet on back table. Then drop off your flowers (tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, lilies, or any other Easter flower) between March 26th and March 28th, in the **morning**, as they will be set up on March 30th.

Our Zoom room Bible study on Thursdays at 7:15 No Study on Maundy Thursday

Special Offering – February - April will be *His mansion* Ministries which provides a Christ-centered residential recovery program for people struggling with addiction and life controlling issues. It is in Deering, NH.

Learning English, Learning Spanish

This class is on hold while the David and Doreen Rinas take a well deserved vacation. This class will resume on April 9th.

Providing Meal for Family Promise of Southern NH, April 10th

We are scheduled to provide dinner for Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire on Wednesday, April 10th. We will be setting up a sub sandwich meal. We are looking for this help in making this meal happen:

- Donations of items for sandwiches (please bring to church no later than the morning of Sunday, April 7th). Please put them in kitchen (in fridge if needed and clearly label for “Family Promise”).
- Shoppers to go out and purchase (will be reimbursed) whatever else is needed to complete the meal
- People to help set up, serve and join in dinner on April 10th.

Please sign up for what you are able to do on the BHAG bulletin board to help make this meal a success. Thank you.

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 7:00 pm

We gather to hear the Great Commandment to love one another. We gather around basin and table to experience God's love. You are welcome to participate in the footwashing. We end leaning into the ominous cross.

**Good Friday**

March 29, 7:00 pm



We linger at the foot of the cross and behold the one who shows us the full measure of his love for God and for us. Jesus' last words frame our time of worship.

Easter Vigil

March 30, 7:00 pm

We wait—surrounding ourselves in story, music and light—for Jesus to return from the dead as he said he would.

**Easter** (with brunch served afterwards)

March 31, 9:30 am

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The empty tombs fills our lives with purpose and hope. Come and rejoice. "Christ is risen!!!" We will be receiving new members.

Holy Week 2024**Messiah Lutheran Church****303 Route 101****Amherst, NH 03031****All Are Welcome****www.messiahnh.org****www.youtube.com/@MessiahNH**

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