

Welcome! Today's liturgy begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Quickly the tone of the service changes as we meditate upon Jesus' passion and death. We hear Luke's account of the Passion today. Though Jesus was obedient even unto death on the cross, he is exalted by God the Father. We gather to remember and give thanks for his offering for the life of the world, and to be fed by his life-giving mercy. This Holy Week will culminate in the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

Please join your heart and voice in praising our Lenten Lord and Savior in this worship service. If you would like more information about St. John's and its ministry, please speak with one of the ushers, greeters, or the pastor.

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Prayer Before Worship

Gracious Lord Jesus, on this day when we remember your entrance into Jerusalem amidst shouts of "Hosanna!" and the waving of palm branches, help us remember why you did this: to offer your life upon the cross as the sacrifice for our sins. Enter into our hearts this day and reign there as our King and Lord. Bless this time of worship as we enter into Holy Week. Amen.

Liturgy with Palms

Weather permitting, the congregation gathers outside the sanctuary in the courtyard. Worship bulletins and palm branches are distributed before the service begins. In case of inclement weather, the service will begin in the Sanctuary.

- L Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
- **G** Hosanna to the Son of David.
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- Let us pray:

 Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

Processional Gospel

John 12:12-19

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Opening Hymn

Ref. 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 Blessèd One. Refrain
- The company of angels
 Is praising You on high,
 And we with all creation
 In chorus make reply. Refrain

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" (LSB 442) Congregation and Handbell Ensemble

- 3 The multitude of pilgrims With palms before You went; Our praise and prayer and anthems Before You we present. *Refrain*
- 4 To You before Your passion They sang their hymns of praise; To You, now high exalted, Our melody we raise. *Refrain*
- As You received their praises,
 Accept the prayers we bring,
 O Source of ev'ry blessing,
 Our good and gracious King.
 Refrain

Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt., Text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Greeting

- Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. The abundant grace and mercy of God be with you all.
- **C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Children's Ministry Ensemble

"Hosanna in the Highest"

First Reading Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
 - **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm (spoken responsively)

Psalm 118:19-29

- Dopen to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
- This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
- I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
- The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
- This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
- This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- Save us, we pray, O LORD!O LORD, we pray, give us success!
- Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- I The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!
- You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.
- L Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
- for his steadfast love endures forever!

Epistle Reading Philippians 2:5-11

Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the

earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Lenten Verse



Holy Gospel – The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Luke 23:1-56

P The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then the whole company of them arose and brought [Jesus] before Pilate. ²And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." ³And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." ⁵But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹²And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of

your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶I will therefore punish and release him."

¹⁸But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"— ¹⁹a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²²A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." ²³But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

²⁶And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" ⁴⁸And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

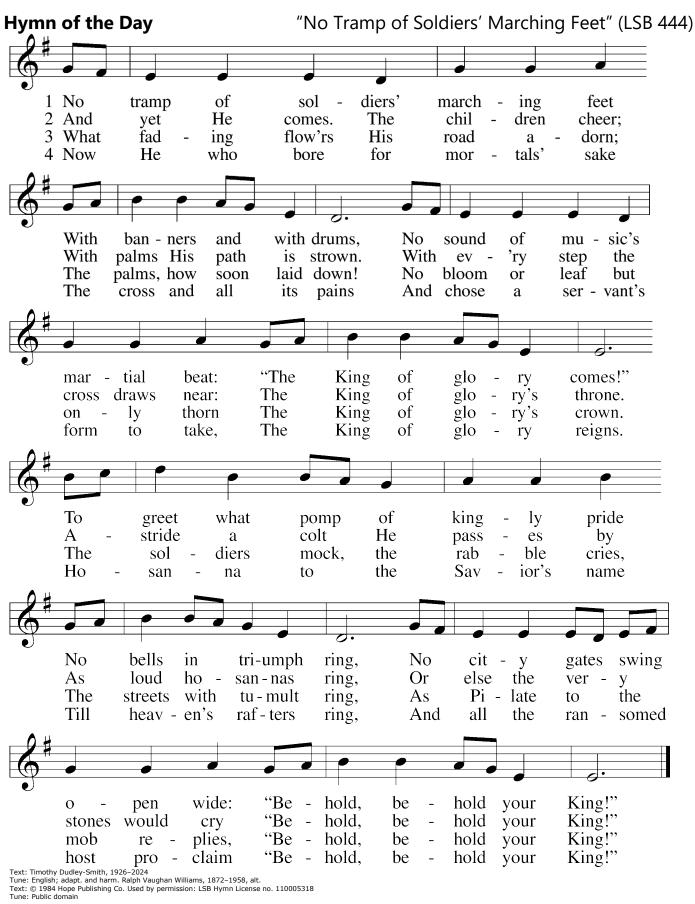
⁵⁰Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.
On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

P This is Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon "A Humble Entrance"

(Hymn of the Day, next page)



Profession of Faith Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father 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.

Prayers of the People

Returning to the Lord with all our heart, let us pray for the whole people of God, the earth, and all who cry out for healing.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the season of Lent each petition ends with the phrase: "Hear us, O God."

Please respond by saying: "Your mercy is great."

The prayers end with the words:

- P Hear us according to your steadfast love, O God, and in your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

- L Let us pray: God our provider,
- you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.

 Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through
 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rite of Confession and Absolution

- P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **G** Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- **P** Gracious God,
- we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

We are not worthy to be called your children.

Have mercy on us and turn us from our sinful ways.

Forgive us and bring us back to you,

For we once were dead but now have life, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

- The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives life, freedom from the power of sin, and resurrection from the dead. In the name of

 → Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Live in newness of life.
- C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

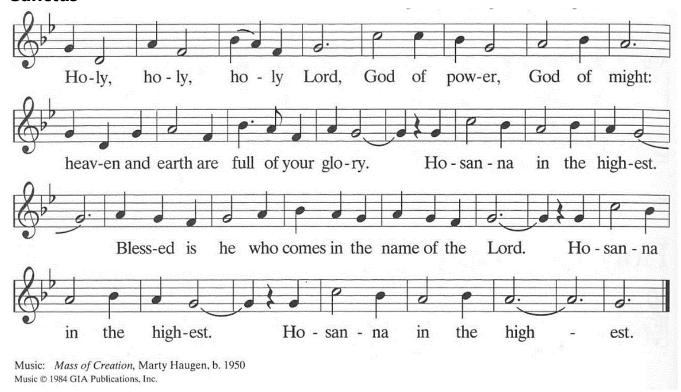
Great Thanksgiving

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **©** We lift them up to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in 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



Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

Agnus Dei



Please he seated

Distribution

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music © 1992 CPH Publishing

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for

medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Music at the Distribution



- 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away; A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay. Yet cheerful He To suff'ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.
- In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.
- Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!
 Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683
 Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962
 Text: Public domain
 Tune: © John Ireland Trust. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318



Dismissal

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in true faith unto life everlasting. Depart

 → in peace.
- C Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- L Let us pray: Merciful God,
- accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of Baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and

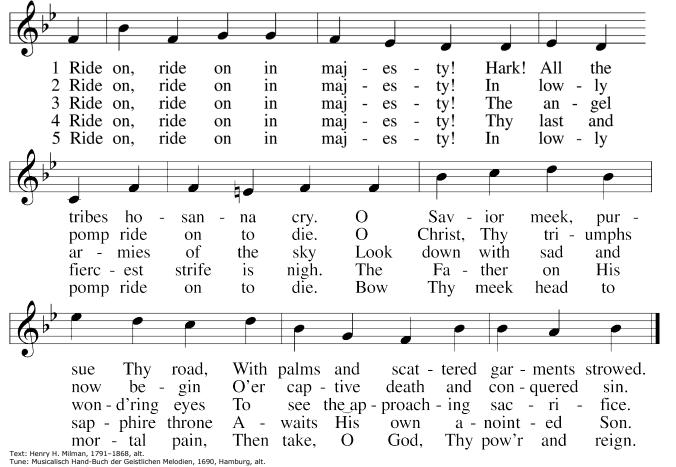
 → give you peace.
- Amen.

Sending

- **L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" (LSB 441)



Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, 1690, Hamburg, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Toccata on "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!" (Gilbert M. Martin)

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Meehan

Welcome & Children's Message Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant Stacey Crosson
Communion Lay Assistant Jeff Crosson

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Jenna Swale

Crucifer Giulianna Vazquez

Ushers Barbara Pate

Mike Waring

Altar Care Karen Kemmet
AV Operators Mark Gilbertson

Andrea Godwin

Welcome Host Joe Godwin Nursery Anne Weikart

Beth Rempe

To **Give** to St. John's Lutheran Church



This weekend's **altar flowers** are given by the donations to the flower fund.



To **download** our SJLC app



To **view** and **subscribe** to the Midweek Update



Acknowledgments

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Toccata on "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!" – Gilbert M. Martin (2008 Sacred Music Press, a division of the Lorenz Corporation) All rights reserved.

2025 Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

NOTE: livestreaming available for service times with an *

Thursday, April 17

7:30PM* - Maundy Thursday (Holy Communion and stripping of the altar) Anniversary of the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Friday, April 18

12 Noon & 7:30PM* - Good Friday (No Communion)

The most solemn day of the Christian year gives thanks to God for the life-giving death of Jesus upon the tree of the cross.

Saturday, April 19

7:30PM - Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter (Holy Communion)

One of the most beautiful and moving services of the entire year. We light the new fire of Easter outside, process into the darkened sanctuary for the service of readings, celebrate Holy Baptism, and conclude with receiving the risen Savior in the Lord's Supper.

Sunday, April 20

8:00AM & 10:30AM* - Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday (Holy Communion)

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Our joy at Jesus' victory of sin, death, and the grave overflows on this blessed Easter morning! A brass ensemble will provide glorious music to lead us in singing praises to our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Between the worship services, Easter breakfast will be offered as well as egg hunts for children.

For Easter Sunday, remember to bring spring flowers to "flower" the cross in the church entrance.



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A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor Rev. John Meehan

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Office/Facilities Administrator Michelle May

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Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff

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