

**SUNDAY- APRIL 2, 2023 -9:00 AM**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB**



*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love  
with all people.*

MINISTERS  
PASTOR  
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
JOHN TWITON  
BARRY HOERZ

[ELC@MHTC.NET](mailto:ELC@MHTC.NET) - 608-437-5012

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

April 2, 2023 | Palm Sunday | 9:00 AM

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C = Congregation**)

**WELCOMING WORD** 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.

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

### **WELCOME**

### **PROCESSION WITH PALMS**

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

**C - Hosanna in the highest!**

### **Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup>"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." <sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" <sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

L - The Gospel of the Lord.

**C - Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Blessing of Palms;**

L - The Lord be with you.

**C - And also with you.**

L - 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**

L - Let us go forth in peace,

**C - In the name of the Lord.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: # 344 - All Glory, Laud and Honor**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L - Everlasting God,

**C - 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.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

<sup>4</sup>The 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. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>The 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; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**+ACCLAMATION (pg. 142)**

**(sing) Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

L: The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 26

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 26:14-30**

<sup>14</sup>One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. <sup>17</sup>On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” <sup>18</sup>He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” <sup>19</sup>So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. <sup>20</sup>When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; <sup>21</sup>and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup>And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” <sup>23</sup>He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup>The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” <sup>25</sup>Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.” <sup>26</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” <sup>30</sup>When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

+L: The Word of the Lord

**+C: Praise to you, O Christ**

**CHOIR ANTHEM “Hosanna! Blessed Is He”**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE - “The Passion Story According to Matthew”  
Pastor John Twiton**

**HYMN: # 346 - Ride On, Ride On in Majesty**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**+ NICENE CREED (pg. 104)**

## THE PRAYERS (pg. 143)

(As the pastor concludes each petition with the words:

“Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**”)

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY #182** “*Let the Vineyards be Fruitful.*”

### MEAL

+ **Offering Prayer: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

+The Great Thanksgiving pg. 206

+” **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**” pg. 207

+**Words of Institution**

+ **The Lord’s Prayer** pg. 208 (right hand column)

**Communion Hymn: # 623 - Rock of Ages (vs. 1,2,3)**

**#338 - Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

**Prayer after Communion: Lord 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

### COMMUNITY WORD

#### +BLESSING

L: May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again.

**C: Amen.**

+**HYMN #349** “*Ah, Holy Jesus*”

#### +DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 2, 2023

**SHARE:** What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding:

**Monday,** Psalm 36:5-11, Human Wickedness and Divine Goodness

**Tuesday,** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Christ the Power of God

**Wednesday,** Isaiah 50:4-9a, The Suffering Servant

**Thursday,** John 13:1-17, Washing the Feet of the Disciples

**Friday,** John 18:1-19:42, The Passion Story

**Saturday,** Romans 6:3-11, Dying and Rising with Christ

**TALK:** Consider some of these ideas:

**Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”**

**-Matthew 27:54**

*In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God’s will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.*

- How would you explain the meaning of the cross as a symbol of your faith? (Matt 27:32-54)
- What is the biggest challenge, difficulty or puzzle in your life of faith today? (Isaiah 50:4-9)
- How has your understanding and vision of a triune God changed in your lifetime? (Phil 2:5-11)

**PRAY: 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.**

**BLESS:** God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. Amen.

### WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

*Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God’s grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ’s love, we welcome you.*