

PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

St John Lutheran Church, Ponca Hills
11120 Calhoun Rd.
From Palms to Passion: Jesus for You



April 13, 2025

AS WE GATHER

Today we are brought to the threshold of Holy Week. This was the day the Jewish people chose the Passover Lamb. How quickly things can change in a week! On this Palm Sunday, we see Jesus enter Jerusalem with palms, a symbol of victory, strewn in the road and being waved. Yet it was from that entry that Jesus went to show His true love—His passion—by dying on the cross on Friday. That death showed His love for you. By faith, we believe what Jesus did was for us. Everything about us—our sin, our eternal destination—changed that week because Jesus took the road from palms to passion. Receive what Jesus did for you by faith, knowing your home in heaven was paid for with the King’s ransom—His own blood.

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

THE WELCOME

THE HYMN: Open the Eyes of My Heart
- Michael W. Smith

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy
(Repeat from beginning)

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You

THE INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father,
**People: who loved us
unconditionally, even before the
foundation of the world;**

Pastor: and of His ✠ Son, Jesus,
**People: the name above all names,
who came to pay a King’s ransom for us;**

Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit,
**People: who brings us to the faith
and keeps us in the faith
from the cradle to grave.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Hosanna!
People: Hosanna to the Son of David!

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in
the name of the Lord!
People: Hosanna in the highest!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We confess before You, Lord,
that we have sinned against You.
**People: We have sinned not only
against You but one another,
with what we have thought,
what we have said, and by
what we have or have not
done.**

Pastor: We unseat You and put
ourselves on the throne that belongs only to
You.
**People: Our pride in these and all
sins deserves Your
punishment, yet today we
approach Your throne of
grace, asking for Your mercy.**

Pastor: So I ask you now: are you
sincere in this, your confession before God,
and promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit,
to amend your sinful life? If so, answer, "Yes,
with the help of God."
People: Yes, with the help of God.

Pastor: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on
the first Palm Sunday to show His love for
you at the cross. At the cross, He showed
His passion for you by dying for your sins

and paying the price we could not pay. As a
called and ordained servant of Christ, and by
His authority, I therefore forgive you all your
sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen! Thank You, Lord, for
Your passion for us.**

COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.
Most merciful God, as the
people of Jerusalem, with palms in their
hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved
Son when He came into His Holy City, grant
that we may ever hail Him as our King and,
when He comes again, may go forth to meet
Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and
follow Him in the way that leads to eternal
life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL *John* 12:12–19

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to
St. John, the twelfth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.
The next day the large crowd that had come
to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to
Jerusalem. So 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!" And Jesus found a young donkey and
sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not,
daughter of Zion; behold, your king is
coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His
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. The crowd that had been with him when

he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace,

People: in the name of the Lord.

HYMN "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"
LSB 442

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

All glory, laud and honor
To You, Redeemer, King
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring
The company of angels
Is praising You on high
And we with all creation
In chorus make reply.

INTROIT *Psalm 24:7–10; antiphon:*
Psalm 118:26

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless You from the house of the LORD.

**People: Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

**People: The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory?

Pastor: The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!

People: We bless You from the house of the LORD.

THE SONG: Here I Am, Lord - Collin Raye
I, the Lord, of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My Word to them
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our Savior's willingness to
ride into Jerusalem, let us give
thanks to the Lord.
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our Savior's humility in
showing His real passion for all
by dying five days later, let us
pray to the Lord.
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the Holy Spirit to open our
hearts to grow in faith during
this Holy Week, let us pray to
the Lord.
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and
defend us, our gracious Lord.
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

HYMN Shout To The Lord-Hillsong Worship

My Jesus, my Savior
Lord, there is none like You
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You
(Repeat from beginning)

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have
Nothing compares to the promise I have
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, on this day,
You entered Jerusalem with pomp and
circumstance, yet Your true passion was to
be sacrificed for our sins. Help us, we pray,
to look past the pomp and circumstance and
see Your passion for us; we ask this in Your
name, who with the Father and Holy Spirit
are one God, one Lord, now and forever.
People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 32:36–39

(God will vindicate His people.)

Reader: For the Lord will vindicate his
people and have compassion on his
servants, when he sees that their power is
gone and there is none remaining, bond or
free. Then he will say, 'Where are their
gods, the rock in which they took refuge,
who ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their drink offering?

Let them rise up and help you;
let them be your protection!
'See now that I, even I, am he,
and there is no god beside me;
I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal;
and there is none that can deliver out of my
hand.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 2:5–11* (Paul
reveals what the mind of Christ is.)

Reader: Have this mind among yourselves,
which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though
he was in the form of God, did not count
equality with God a thing to be
grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the
form of a servant, being born in the likeness
of men. And being found in human form, he
humbled himself by becoming obedient to
the point of death, even death on a
cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above
every name, so that at the name of
Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and
on earth and under the earth, and every
tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to
the glory of God the Father.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 118:19–29*

Pastor: Open to me the gates of
righteousness, that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

**People: 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.**

Pastor: The stone that the builders
rejected has become the cornerstone.

**People: This is the LORD's doing; it is
marvelous in our eyes.**

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD
has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**People: Save us, we pray, O LORD! O
LORD, we pray, give us success!**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in
the name of the LORD! We bless You from
the house of the LORD.

**People: 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!**

Pastor: You are my God, and I will give
thanks to You;

**People: You are my God; I will extol
You.**

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for
He is good;

**People: for His steadfast love
endures forever!**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 23:1–56*

(Jesus' trials before Pilate and Herod
before being sentenced and executed)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to
St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Then the whole company of them arose and
brought him before Pilate. And 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." And Pilate asked
him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he
answered him, "You have said so." Then
Pilate said to the chief priests and the

crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place." When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When 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. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN Everlasting God Chris Tomlin

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord

Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer
You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint, you won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles
(Repeat from beginning)

SERMON

CREED

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty God, King of the universe, we come before You humbly asking that You would hear our prayers and answer them according to Your will.

We bow before You and give unto You our worship and praise.

People: We worship You not because we love You, but You loved us first and gave the King's ransom to pay our sin's debt. Thank You, Jesus, for loving us so much.

Pastor: We thank You for the working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives both to bring us to faith and keep us in the faith.

People: Continue to open the eyes of our hearts and those around us, that we might see Your entry with palms for what it really was—Your passion to save us.

Pastor: As we near the day of Your return, we see a world in turmoil.

People: Help us, Prince of Peace, amid all the chaos, to keep our eyes fixed on You.

Pastor: You are a benevolent King, known to grant requests.

People: While You walked this earth, You granted the requests of the blind, the lame, the deaf, and even the widow at Nain, who did not ask You for anything, and You raised her son back to life.

Pastor: We lift up those who are sick and those who are suffering, [*including . . .*].
People: Be with them, ease their pain, and bring relief from sicknesses through doctors, nurses, medicines, and miracles to accomplish Your will in their lives.

Pastor: You tell us in Your Word to remember those in authority. We lift up those who hold seats of power.
People: For rulers in all places, high and low, north, south, east, and west, we ask that Your Spirit would guide them and Satan's power be thwarted in all places.

Pastor: For Your church in all places, that the Gospel would be powerfully proclaimed this week, and the Holy Spirit stir faith in the hearts of many,
People: use us according to Your will, that others may see the life of Jesus in us.

Pastor: Before Your throne, almighty King, we lift these and all petitions of our hearts, trusting You will answer all according to Your will.
People: We pray in the name of Jesus, who with the Father and Holy Spirit is one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:23–26*

Pastor: Your King cares for you! Receive His blessing through the words of the Aaronic benediction, by which He said, "Thus you shall bless the people." Receive that benediction, your King's 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.
People: Amen.

HYMN Be Exalted O God - John Michael Talbot

I will give thanks to Thee
O Lord, among the people
I will sing praises to Thee
Among the nations
For Thy steadfast love is great
It is great to the Heavens
And Thy faithfulness
Thy faithfulness to the clouds

Be exalted, O God
Above the Heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the Earth
Be exalted, O God
Above the Heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the Earth

(Repeat from beginning)

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Our thanks to those who serve today:

Acolyte Jaydon Foote
Ushers Julie Allen, Doug Murray
Reader Deb Woosley

OUR MISSION:

We are St John Lutheran Church, forgiven and united through faith in Jesus Christ. We seek to grow in our relationship with Him through worship, Bible study and Prayer and reaching out with His love and message to our neighbors.

Our thanks to everyone who helped with Church Clean up yesterday

Thanks to Karen and Sarah for the special music today.

Maundy Thursday service is April 17 at 7:00 pm with a Pre-Service Potluck Dinner at 5:45pm

Good Friday service is April 18 at 7:00 pm

Easter Worship is April 20 at 9:00 am.

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