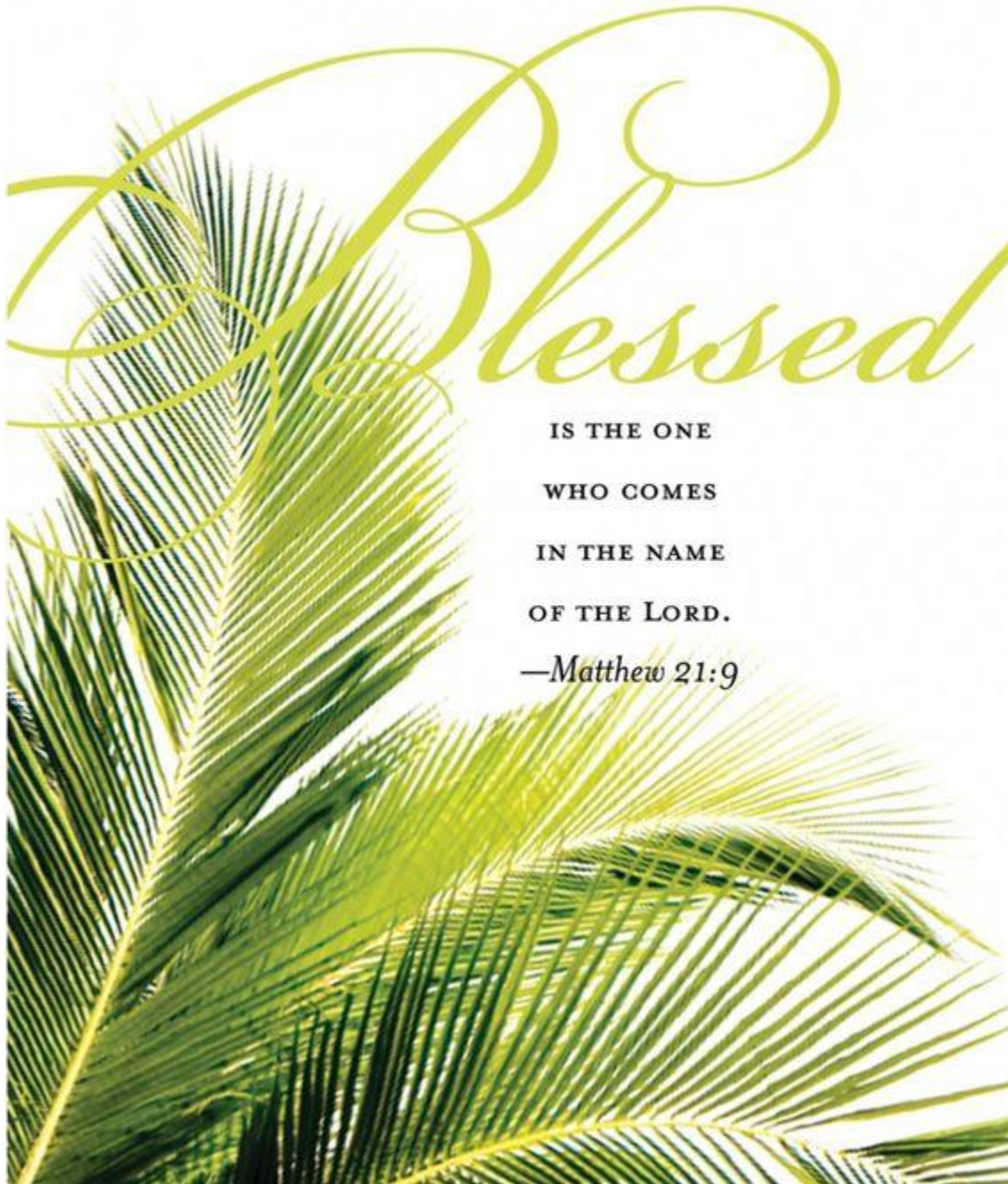


# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 28th , 2021

PALM SUNDAY



140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661  
[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Church Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Business Manager:** Karen McCumber [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Secretary:** Pat Kimpel [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)  
**SOUL Ministry:** Trinda Rensen/Gillian Leaver  
**Facebook:** Lisa Gall [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](http://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC)  
**Bulletin by email:** Judy Mason [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

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## PALM SUNDAY

**Prayer:** Almighty and everlasting God the Father, who sent Your Son to take our nature upon Him and to suffer death on the cross that all mankind should follow the example of His great humility, mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of our Saviour Jesus Christ in His patience and also have our portion in His resurrection; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday Musician:** Susanne Anderson  
**Sunday Reader:** 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Howard Bogusat

Maundy Thursday: April 1, 7 p.m. – *(Holy Communion)*  
Musician: Susanne Anderson  
Reader: Paul Wachs  
Good Friday: April 2, 10 a.m. – Musician: Mayumi Munoz Reader: Gloria Meyer  
7 p.m. – Musician: Mayumi Munoz Reader: Lorraine Kaija

**9 AM - Contemporary Worship**  
**Palm Sunday Creative Communion**  
Palm Liturgy --Glory, Laud & Honour  
Responses  
Prayer of the Day  
Scripture Readings  
Choir – The Messiah Has Come  
Gospel  
Nicene Creed  
Song – Hosanna [Praise Is Rising]  
Message  
Confession of Sins & Forgiveness  
Prayers  
Communion order & Lord's Prayer  
Communion hymn—What Wondrous Love  
Communion prayer  
Benediction  
Closing Song—Lamb of God

**11 AM -Traditional Worship**  
**Palm Sunday Creative Communion**  
Palm Liturgy– Glory, Laud & Honour  
Responses  
Prayer of the Day  
Scripture Readings  
Choir – The Messiah Has Come  
Holy Gospel  
Nicene Creed  
Hymn -- Lamb of God  
Message  
Confession of Sins & Forgiveness  
Prayers  
Communion order & Lord's Prayer  
Communion hymn—O Gracious Lord  
Communion prayer  
Benediction  
Closing Hymn -- What Wondrous Love

**Sunday School:** Easter Resurrection Eggs <https://youtu.be/unbliHuvX8I>  
**Precious Moments:** Holy Week <https://youtu.be/GZiT9RV0cMk>  
**Children's Message:** Palm Sunday Celebration <https://youtu.be/FkPfv8446Lk>

**PLEASE NOTE:** In-Church worship is once again available for our 9 AM (Contemporary) and 11 AM (Traditional) services at 30% capacity (50-60 people). All safe distancing and sanitary measures which Niagara Region Public Health expects will be observed. A recorded service will also be provided each Sunday on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg>

**COVID 19 – PROTOCOL:** Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ Lutheran Church, let us continue to be mindful of COVID 19 by following all safety measures and protocols. If you have any of the symptoms outlined by Public Health, please remain at home. Services are available online.

If attending worship, please:

- *Wear a mask covering both your mouth and nose at all times.*
- *Sanitize your hands frequently*
- *Practice social distancing, 2 metres or 6 feet apart*
- *Ensure you have a temperature check before entering*
- *Ensure your attendance is noted at the entrance doors.*

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: 1 Pet. 2: 21-24

Wed.: Rev. 1: 5b-7

Friday: Rev. 5: 1-14

Tuesday: 1 Tim. 6: 12-14

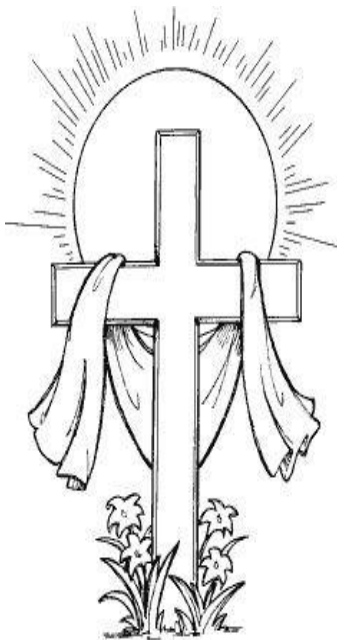
Thurs: 1 Cor. 11: 20-32

Saturday: 1 Pet.3: 17-22

**EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE:** Sunday, April 4, 9:00 am & 11:00 am

With continued COVID restrictions, we ask that you start making plans for you and your family if you wish to join us. Kindly confirm your attendance by registering with the Church office at 905-685-8294 or via email to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca) as soon as possible

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



### Palm Sunday

March 28

*“The Messiah Has Come”*

Choir singing at 9 & 11 a.m. services

### Maundy Thursday

April 1, 7 p.m.—*Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar*

Choir: “Remember Me”

### Good Friday

April 2, 10 a.m.: *Stations of the Cross*

Choir: “How Great the Love”

7 p.m.: *Tenebrae Service*

Choir: “Cross of Sorrow, Cross of Love”

### Easter Sunday Festive Communion

April 4, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

*Choir both services: “Jesus is Alive! Alleluia”*

*(Please register with the office)*

*“Take-out” Style Breakfast in-between services*

**JUST FOR KIDS:** April 12-16: A mini “Easter VBS” is in the works. It will be an online morning ZOOM event. More information will follow on how to register and when you can pick up the craft kits.

**WOMEN'S ZOOM BIBLE STUDY:** Friday, April 9, 7:00 PM: What should the Christian life look like? Join us as we study the book of James (by Jesus' brother). Together let's study and journal what it means to live authentically and victoriously through challenges of life! Join us as we learn with Dr. Lina AbuJamra through our Right Now Media Ministry. For more information or to receive the link contact Louise 905-329-8579.

**SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC:** It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

**1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:** Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at: [http://christlutheransc.ca/?page\\_id=96](http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96) and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,  
275 Lawrence Ave.,  
Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3  
Attn: Darryll Holland

**2. BY MAIL:** cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church  
140 Russell Ave.  
St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

**3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA:** Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageld=donation-edit&categoryld=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

**DONATIONS:** have been made to SOUL in memory of Lillian Dueck by Twila Gall; and to Christ Lutheran by Laurel Regnier in celebration of the birth of her granddaughter, Madilyn Alice Ciolfi

**COLLECTION NOTE:** At this point we are not 'collecting' any materials for the church. No milk bags for making mats; no SOUL bingo prizes; no Christmas cards for Sunday School or SOUL; no puzzles for exchange, etc. Thank you!

**FLOWERS FOR ALTAR:** Beginning Sunday, April 4 (Easter Sunday) we will start to put flowers on the altar again. If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign up with the office at 905-685-8294 or email: [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca). The cost per bouquet is \$25.00.



**The Old Testament:        *Isaiah 50: 5-9a***

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. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. 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. 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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

**The Epistle:                *Philippians 2:5-11***

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

**The Holy Gospel:        *St. Mark 15: 22-41***

Then [the soldiers] brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!' There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

**REV. TODD HOEFFS**

**Palm Sunday**

**Scripture: St. John 12 & Phil. 3**

**March 28, 2021**

**Title: "Jesus' Cross-road"**

Get a job doing what you love, and you'll never work a day in your life.

This old saying is attributed to many different authors.

Its meaning is simple.

Since work is usually viewed as draining,

Choosing a vocation what you love will make the work less troublesome.

Sometimes this is true.

But work is still work, or else it wouldn't be called work. Right?

We often do what we're good at.

Employ our strengths and talents.

Some people even do a job they're very good at but may not love it. Always.

Jesus is doing a job He loves.

A job He's passionate about.

Palm Sunday is also called Passion Sunday.

The time He begins to embrace the suffering part of His work.

The work to save us.

Work He loves

Because HE LOVES US.

Palm Sunday is a cross road

Jesus' cross road

As His journey will end at Calvary's cross,

Bloody

Lonely

Burdensome.

But full of passion to make sure

Every single person of the world is included in His saving death.

And by faith in Jesus,

God intersects with us at the cross-roads

At Jesus' cross road.

Where we are drawn ever closer to our God, perhaps even more so than at Christmas time.

For this week we see, hear, sing and feel the REASON God is with us: to SAVE US FROM ALL THAT HARMS US!

Jesus' entry on a donkey displays He's come as the Prince of Peace ready to fight the worst of wars. Entering Jerusalem to the cheers of the people waving palm branches, another emblem of peace.

Because in ancient times a visiting king customarily pranced in on a white horse into a city during war. If a king arrived at peace, he'd lope in slowly, quietly on a donkey.

Like Jesus, entering humbly, peacefully, from the EAST, like the bright rising SON.

Roman history tells us how Caesar processed into Jerusalem riding a white horse on this same high Holy Day of Passover. He wore a golden laurel wreath as a crown as a long purple robed flapped in the wind. And he came in from the WEST.

The Roman parade is all about ORDER. Jerusalem goes from a city of 50,000 to over 200,000 at Passover time. And because Passover celebrated Israel's liberation from Egyptian Pharaoh, ending in their monumental drowning in the parted Red Sea waters, Rome expects full obedience to their Caesar.

The Roman Empire was the most powerful force in the world at that time. They had the most money. The best technology. The largest military. Demanding high taxes and absolute loyalty.

Jesus in contrast comes without rippling muscle power. Bringing a Kingdom not framed in this world, but formed in the Heavenly World. Carrying out the ancient plan to save the world and all people through humble obedience to death at the hands of His own creation. That's why He's welcomed as a hero today and condemned to die as the worst of criminals come Friday.

It may surprise you that the crowds shouting "*Hosanna to the Son of David*" are not the same people who'll shout, "*Crucify him! Crucify him!*"

Palm Sunday we hear the voices of the common people. And not only followers from Jerusalem, but "*people who followed him from outside the known places.*" The outsiders, anyone who heard and maybe even believed in Jesus to some degree.

Good Friday we hear the voices of the establishment. The powerful religious authority. Up to now they watch and plot. Friday their plan comes to fruition, infiltrating a select audience to make sure Jesus dies.

You see, Israel as a nation witnessed Jesus' earthly ministry and grew *selfish*. They wanted it all about them. Jesus came seeking and saving the lost. Healing the sick, blind and lame, feeding the crowds, sharing God's divine lavish forgiveness with the broken and lonely. He invited the unwanted and unloved of society to eat with Him at His table. He welcomed children, women and tax collectors. He came for all. He even taught the greatest commandment – love God....and love your neighbour as yourself. He taught that when we take care of each other and our neighbors, we do it not just to them, but to God.

These messages were nothing new. They were the same messages of the prophets – the psalms – Moses & Abraham, too.

The Israelites want this holy help all to themselves, not for everyone. Restore the great nation back to what it was way back when..... Forget the needful among them. Fear and anger turn to exuberant joy at needs being met! Here's our King! And, look, he comes on a donkey because we'll finally have peace – a peace which means the Roman armies gone!

Jesus enters Jerusalem as the peoples' dream come true. He's treated like royalty, like the great old King David filling their political dreams.

They even quote Psalm 118 (verses 25-26), used in temple worship for ascending the temple mount in the glory of Israel's former kings. "*Hosanna to the son of David.*" "Hosanna" means "save us now". "*Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.*" A victorious greeting! Peace is here! The quick fix to all the problems has arrived!

That's the trouble with sentimental memory. It's a selective memory. Glories in an imagined past. As much as the crowds of worshippers might actually believe in Jesus, they're also seeing the end result of their political hopes. Peace without war or bloodshed. A parade in contrast with Caesars. Yet, Jesus isn't committed to a path of "glory," but rather a path of defeat. He will not reign from a palace, but from a cross.

Jesus will have a purple robe draped on his back after its torn open and bleeding after being hit repeatedly with whips. And a crown of thorns will get pushed down on his head.

The Romans will parade him through the city, as the bystanders shout, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Jesus will be not led to the Emperor's palace but to Calvary, outside the city gates.

Cheers will give way to the pounding of hammers as nails cut into Jesus' hands and feet.

The indestructible power of Rome is contrasted with the foolish-looking gentleness of the One who welcomed children, preached about not judging and caring for the stranger and ate with sinners.

The pomp, power and pride of the world's greedy and powerful are shown for what they are: a sham. Love, compassion and weakness is exalted. Lifted high on a cross for the world to see, so that all people may be drawn to His all-encompassing embrace.

Peace wins the war. Jesus fights the battle by being nailed to a cross, the cost is His shed blood, but the prize is our freedom and our relationship with God restored! His Kingdom wins. Nations

come and go; politicians rise and fall. God is stronger than Rome or Israel or Satan or any human ideal.

And it's into this life of blood bought peace we as the church are born. Since Baptism washes us into Jesus' cross and blood and identity as His Living Body in the world. Christianity isn't about being right. About being better than everyone else. About being prideful, arrogant, privileged or comfortable. A Christ-centred life is all about humility. About serving, helping, caring, wanting everyone to have the same life of faith as you treasure. Serving not out of our strength or what we have time for or what comes easy but serving by letting our own human vulnerability show, doing what needs to be done even when it's not easy.

Palm Sunday shows us we belong to Christ as His servant Church. For we proclaim the hope of the world, in St. Catharines and beyond ...

*that He Who came into this world as one of us DIED our death, suffered our PAIN, paid for our WRONGS, became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. (Philippians 2)*

And the outside world will know we belong to Jesus as His Gospel message of hope and peace show in our expressions, our actions, and how we cope with life. Like the times when you're now given a better life *now* – when all your problems are not immediately fixed – you will feel betrayed. And as you look on Jesus with trusting eyes, you'll never be disappointed with what you see. Jesus is still here as the King of Peace giving you peace with as you see our world turn. For Christ has already released us from the corrupted human bondage to rebellion and sinfulness.

Jesus may not always feel like the savior we want, but He's forever the SAVIOUR we NEED. A suffering, crucified and risen Saviour. A Saviour Who still rides humbly into our mouths in Holy Communion, made Holy by His Spirit keeping us connected to His life-line. A Saviour Who still brings a Heavenly Kingdom down to our little worlds when we need Him the most.

Palm Sunday proves evermore sure, that our God, our Prince of Peace, our humble servant Saviour, is still WITH US. And we continue journeying in this life safely on Jesus' cross-road.

Amen.