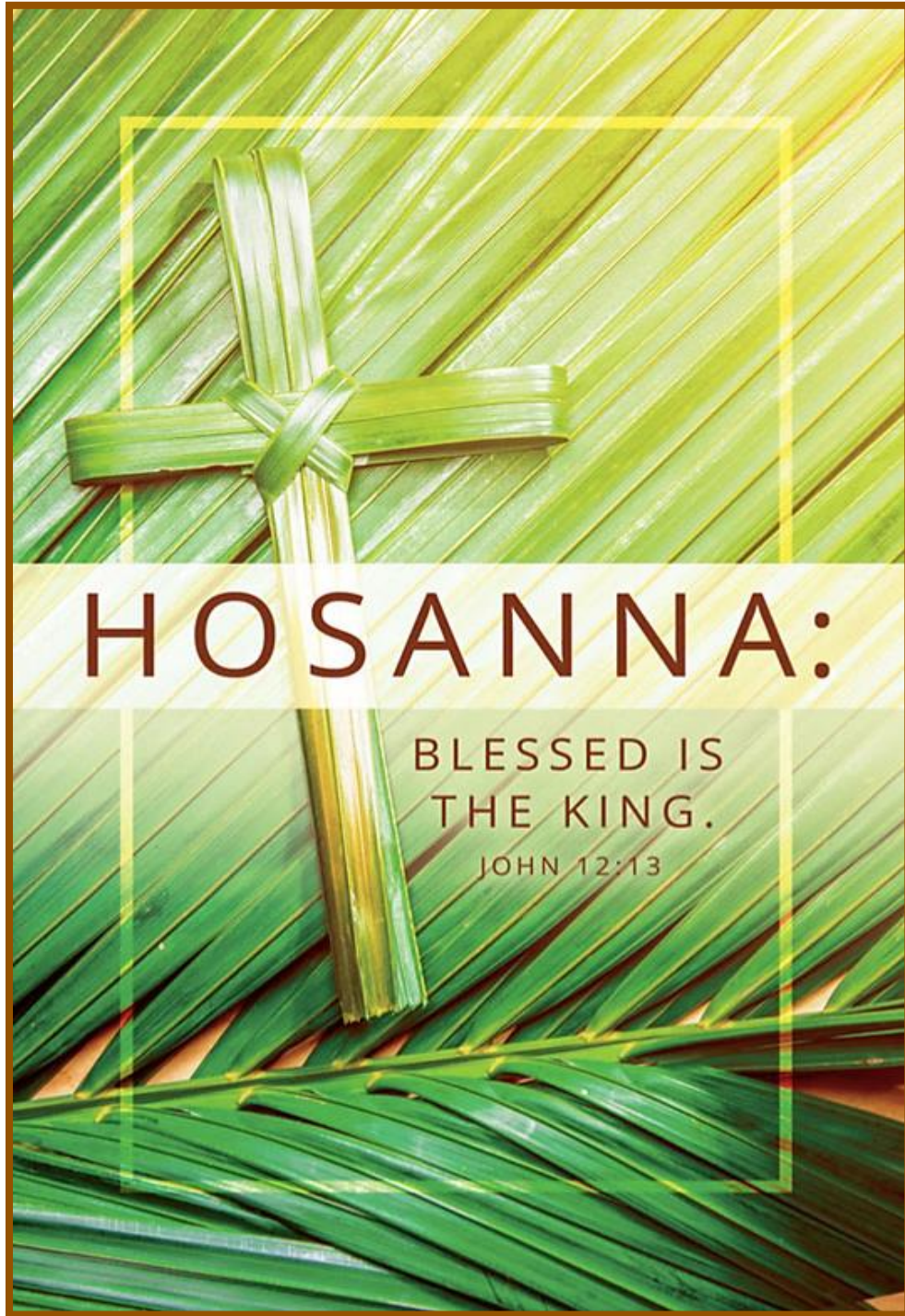


PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24, 2024



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – ST. CATHARINES, ON

140 Russell Avenue

St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1

Church: 905-685-8294

www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Thursday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon

Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor:	Pastor Todd Hoefts	(289-362-0113)	sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca
Parish Assistant:	Louise Gondosch	(905-329-8579)	parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager:	Karen McCumber		business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary:	Pat Kimpel		secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook:			www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email:			chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw

Seminarian Vijay Samuel, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Student Fieldworker
Rev. Noel Richard, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Colloquy Student Fieldworker

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church!

We're glad you are worshipping with us!

Please be aware that our Worship Services are **recorded and posted on YouTube and Facebook**. There is, although very slight, a possibility that your image might be posted. If you have any concerns, please either speak to the Elder on duty or alternatively seat yourself more towards the back of the sanctuary or along either of the outside aisles.

May our gracious and loving Lord bless you as you worship Him.

We pray you and the family of Christ Lutheran remain safe and healthy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIPPING

God in highest heaven, how humbly you enter our world to reign as Christ Jesus on dusty road, riding a donkey. Help us to pave the way for your eternal realm with our prayer and praise, with our service and love, until the very stones cry out at the coming of your new creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Luke 18:18-31

Wed.: Luke 19:1-10

Friday: Luke 19:11-44

Tuesday: Ruth 3

Thurs: Ruth 4

Saturday: 1 Samuel 1



You are all welcome to join us for worship this week!

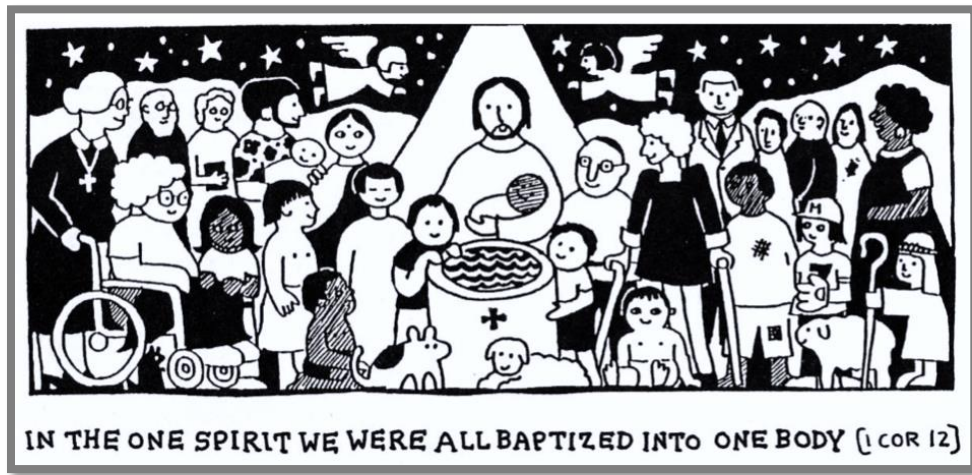
March 28 @ 7 PM Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
and the Stripping of the Altar

March 29 @ 10 AM Stations of the Cross

March 29 @ 7 PM Solemn Tenebrae service

March 31 @ 10 AM Festive Easter Communion

Musicians – Louise Gondosch + **Reader** – Gloria Meyer + **Greeters** – Judy Slingerland



ALSO HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN ---

- Today: 9:00 – 9:50 am – Sunday School, Coffee Hour
10:00 am – Worship – Palm Sunday
- Monday: 10:00 -11:00 a.m. – Luther Manor Bible Study
7:30 p.m. – Choir
- Tuesday: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. – Precious Moments
- Thursday: NO SOUL



YOU ARE INVITED!! EVERY SUNDAY!!

Hope to see you downstairs *for*

COFFEE, TEA & TREATS !

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
(during Sunday School & CHAT)

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact: Judy Mason

PARISH EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL today we learn how Jesus paid the price for the sins of the world by His suffering and death on the cross. Bible verse: "Christ died for our sins" [1 Cor. 15:3]

CONFIRMAND & YOUTH CHAT the second & fourth Sundays with youth leader Dan Figueroa. We will meet in the youth room from 9 - 9:50 a.m. Hope to see you there!!

FAMILY DAY EVENT: Saturday April 27th @ 4 PM. Together we will enjoy singing, a devotional, a pasta dinner (there will be a sign up for desserts or salads) and our organized game this time will be 'Crokinole'. If you have a board that we can borrow please let Louise know. (905-329-8579). More details to follow.

EASTER VIGIL [Saturday Night before Easter] at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary on the campus of Brock University. The Niagara Region is invited. Overflow parking is close, in Lot O behind the nearest residence building. Weather permitting the service will begin outdoors around a fire, then process by candlelight into the darkened chapel. There is remembrance of Baptism, Prayers, announcement of the Resurrection, song and light for Easter Communion. You are welcome to bring Easter snacks and treats to share at a brief social following the service. Thank you.



EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 31st at 11:30 a.m.

Please join us in the Church basement.

Breakfast includes: pancakes, sausages, hot cross buns, coffee and orange juice.

Everyone is Welcome

free-will offering collected to enable the Fellowship Committee to cover costs

As it is the custom for the men of the congregation to do the cooking and serving, we are once again asking the gentlemen to sign up on forms located in the Narthex



LWML-C/MARY MARTHA EVENTS

Tuesday, April 16: 7:00 p.m.—Mission Service night – Quilt Tying and cutting stamps.

Tuesday, May 21 – 7:00 p.m.—Speaker / TBA.

Tuesday, June 18: Summer Pot Luck – 5:30 p.m. More details to follow.

Please feel free to join us for any or all events!

12th Regular Convention of Lutheran Women's Missionary League—Canada: July 11-14, 2024, at the Four Points by Sheraton in London, ON.

The convention theme is based on Psalm 149:1 'Sing to the Lord a new song'

Keynote Speaker will be Deb Burma who is a Christian author and LWML seminar leader. Special Interest Speakers will also tell of their cross-cultural ministry with the use of singing and music. The mites gathered throughout the past three years provided such great blessings to people around the world, from local support for a Bethlehem Walk in BC to International support of deaconesses in Nicaragua and Cambodia. Rev. Mark Smith will bring news of the work that is happening through those missions. Mission Grants for the next triennium will be voted on.

If you would be interested in attending, either in person or online, speak to Lorraine Kaija.

Registration forms will be available in the coming months. You can also check out the LWML web site lutheranwomen.ca

IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, PLEASE SPEAK TO Lorraine Kaija.

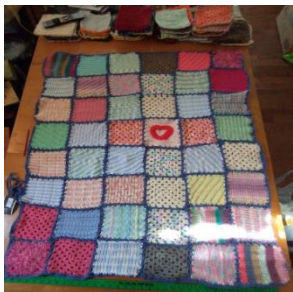
REGISTRATION FORMS COMING SOON. See LWML web site: lutheranwomen.ca

FELLOWSHIP OUTTING involving a mystery dinner theatre set in the roaring 20's [that's 1920s!]. "Murder at the Speakeasy", 6 PM Saturday, April 27th \$40 per person located at 2275 Dorchester Rd, Niagara Falls. Proceeds go to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. **Please see the poster on the red narthex bulletin board for details.** Email lion.margaret@stamfordlions.ca for tickets.

<i>Last Sunday Attendance:</i>	<i>10 a.m. – 104</i>	<i>Wed. March 13 -- 29</i>	<i>SOUL: 39 [13 PSW caregivers]</i>		
	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Weekly Need</i>	<i>Last Sunday</i>	<i>Year To Date</i>	<i>+ or - (--)</i>
Current	303,899.00	5,844.21	3,250	43,262.61	(21,023.72)
LCC Missions	17,500.00	336.54	341.00	4,446.50	744.58
Property Improvement:			147.00	1,579.50	

EASTER LILIES: If you would like to purchase a lily for Easter, please sign your name at the back of the church and you can take it home after the service on March 31st. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Please add if in memory of someone or someone you are thankful for, and we will add it to the Easter Sunday bulletin.

USED STAMPS: Start saving and collecting your used stamps now! They will be gathered at the LWML-C Convention and donated to a charity who will in turn use them to purchase spiritual resources like Bibles.



Granny Squares still needed: This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. It has been about 6 months that we have been able to show Christ's love in our Caring Squares blankets. (23 blankets to date!) Thank you for donating yarn or completed squares as we continue with this project! Praise

God! If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

PALM SUNDAY

Lutheran Service Book Divine Service Setting 3 with Palms
March 25, 2024 + 10 AM Worship

GATHERING

PALM SUNDAY HYMN

"All Glory, Laud & Honour"

Tune: LSB 442

As the choir walks in all worshippers are invited to wave their palm branches as we sing.

**All glory, laud, and honour 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 honour to You, Redeemer, King
To Whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**The multitude of pilgrims with palms before You went,
Our praise and prayer and anthems before You we present.**

**All glory, laud, and honour to You, Redeemer, King
To Whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
To You, before Your Passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To You, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

**All glory, laud, and honour to You, Redeemer, King
To Whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

PALM SUNDAY RESPONSES

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, + be with you all.

And also with you.

Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna to the Son of David!

The Lamb Who was killed is worthy to receive

power and wealth, wisdom and strength, honour, glory and praise!

PSALM 118 [various verses]

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

With branches in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

LORD HAVE MERCY [Sung]



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

We pray to the Lord: Most Merciful God, our Heavenly Father, as the crowd at the gate of Jerusalem gathered with palms in their hands to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He entered into His Holy City, help us ever to praise Him as the Son of David Who comes in the name of the Lord and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life, that when He comes again we may go forth to meet Him with faithful and steadfast hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

SCRIPTURE

The Old Testament *Zechariah 9:9-10*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem, and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations, his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

The Epistle *Philippians 2:5-11*

[St. Paul writes:] Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And

being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that 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**

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Messiah Has Come!"

Bring your palm branches -- There's joy in the street.

Hosanna hosanna the voices repeat..

There is shouting and waving to this blessed One

For this is the day the Messiah has come. Join the procession and burst into song

And join with the voices of heaven's great throng

There's praising, celebrating, that never is done.

For this is the day the Messiah has come.

Sing hosanna sing hosanna to the Son. Sing hosanna, sing the great Messiah come.

Look in the faces, the pain melts away, For years of praying are answered today.

The crying and grieving for now it is done. For this is the day the Messiah has come.

Lay down your pain, lay down your grief. Rest from your burdens, find relief.

Finish your prayers of worry and fear. Lift up your head, - the Lord is here!

Join the procession and burst into song

And join with the voices of heaven's great throng.

There's praising, celebrating, that never is done.

For this is the day the Messiah has come. Lift up your head, the Messiah has come!

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SPOKEN GOSPEL VERSE

**Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful;
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

The Holy St. Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter:

♪ **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.** ♪

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them

to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord over them has need, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." This is the Gospel of the Lord

♪ **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.** ♪

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL HYMN

"Hosanna [Praise Is Rising]"



1. Praise — is ris — ing, eyes — are turn — ing — to You; .
 2. Hear — the sound — of hearts — re — turn — ing — to You; .



— We turn to You; — Hope — is
 — We turn to You; — In — Your



stir — ing hearts — are yearn — ing — for You; —
 King — dom bro — ken lives — are — made new, —



We long for You; — 'Cause when we see —
 You make us new; —



— You, we find strength — to face the day; — In Your pres —



— ence all our fears — are — washed a-way, washed a — way. — Ho —



— san — na, ho — san — na, — You are the God .



— who — saves us, wor — thy of all — our prais — es; — Ho —



— san — na, ho — san — na, — come have Your way .



— a — mong us; We wel — come You here, — Lord Je — sus. —

MESSAGE

GOSPEL RESPONSE

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

O Almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You, and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the your Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray to God our Father, and place in his hands the suffering of the world.

We pray for the church, that we may humbly bear our crosses and follow Jesus as our King and Lord. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for pastors entrusted with your holy word, like the priests and scribes. May they preserve the truth of your word, teach and live according to it. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who have sinned, like Peter. Teach us to be sorry for our sins, and forgive us all that we do wrong. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for prisoners and criminals like Barrabas. May they find true freedom by changing the way they live through trust in You. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in government, like Pilate and Herod. May our leaders and all in authority around the world use their power properly, and serve truth and justice. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who are dying, like the thieves crucified with Jesus. May they die with Jesus by their side, and be received into your kingdom. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for parents like Mary who have lost a child. May they live through such suffering in hope, knowing the comfort of your love. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for peace in areas where there is unrest and conflict. Protect our brothers and sisters in Christ in these places. May their neighbours see the Son of God in them. Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

And we pray for those with spiritual or physical needs who are known to us personally, especially...*[names added]*...and whom we now name silently in our hearts... *[brief silence]*; Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

Father, may the suffering and death of Jesus lighten the burdens of all who suffer. Lead us in the way of the cross, that as we suffer with Jesus, so we may rise to life in his glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly meet, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal Feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so with the Church on earth and with all the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

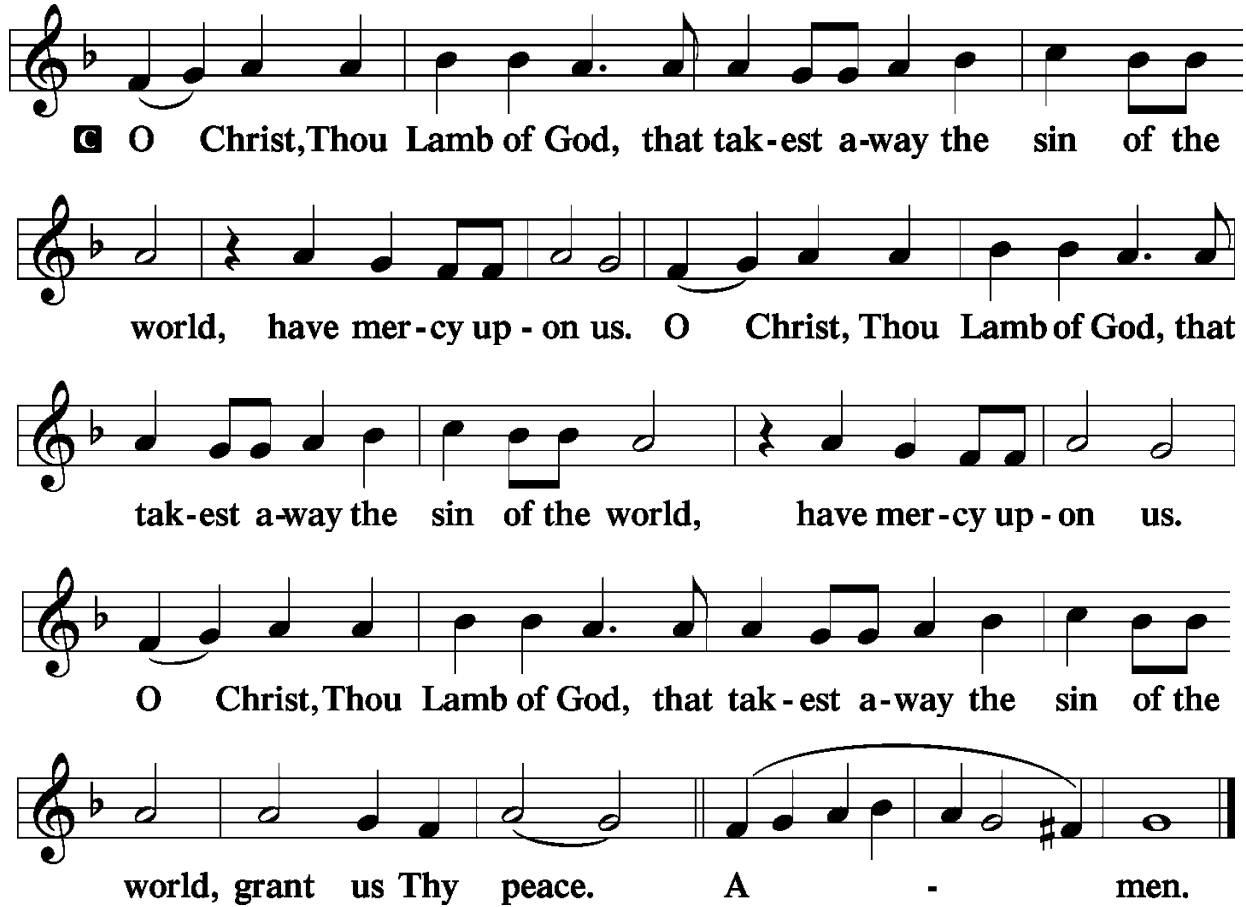
THE LORD'S PRAYER **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name....**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you

for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



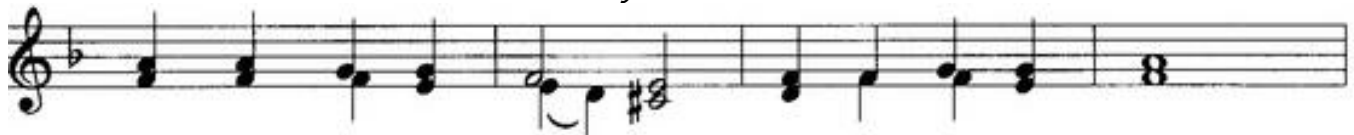
■ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

For those who have need, please feel free to stand at the rail if kneeling is difficult. The common cup and trays of individual glasses are available. Gluten free wafers are also available. Light purple glasses of Communion wine mixed with water are in the centre ring of the silver trays.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Glory Be To Jesus"



- | | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| 1. Glo - ry | be to | Je - sus, | Who in | bit - ter | pains |
| 2. Grace and | life e - | ter - nal | In that | blood I | find; |
| 3. Blest through | end - less | a - ges | Be the | pre - cious | stream |
| 4. A - bel's | blood for | ven - geance | Plead - ed | to the | skies; |



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins.
 Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind.
 Which from end - less tor - ments Did the world re - deem.
 But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

6. Lift we, then, our voices,
 Swell the mighty flood;
 Louder still and louder
 Praise the precious blood!

Viva! viva! Gesù
 Italian, 18th cent.
 Tr. E. Caswall, 1814-78

WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN
 F. Filitz, 1804-76

"Tree Of Life"

[Tune: "Once In Royal David's City"]



1 Tree of Life and awe-some myst'--ry, in Christ's death we



are re--born; Though His cross trans-forms all hist'ry, still we



rise with ev' -- ry morn, may we be a bles--ing



true; show forth Christ in all we do.

Seed that dies to rise in glo-ry, may we see our-selves in you,
 If we learn to live your stor-y we may die to rise a-new,
 We re-call Your Word of truth, and we bear the cross through You.

Lord, You lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be.
 One with You in joy and sorrow, we the branches of the Tree.
 You have loved us as Your own, help us turn to You alone.

**Give us eyes to see You clearly; as God's children of the Light.
 Give us hearts to live more nearly as Your Gospel shining bright!
 Be the Fountain for each soul, flow in us and make us whole.**

Words: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984 GIA Pub, Inc. Music: H. Gauntlett, 1805-1876, IRBY LSB 376

"Come To Cal'vry's Holy Mountain"



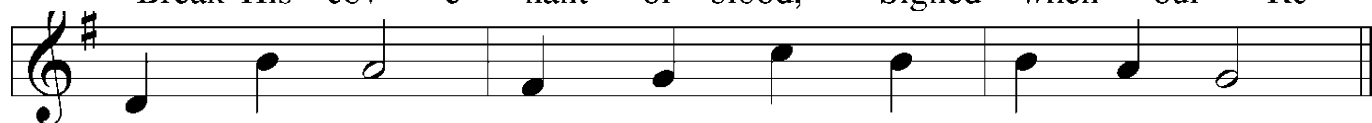
1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

www.Hymnary.orgLW



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; Hold me
 wa - ters flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me
 fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

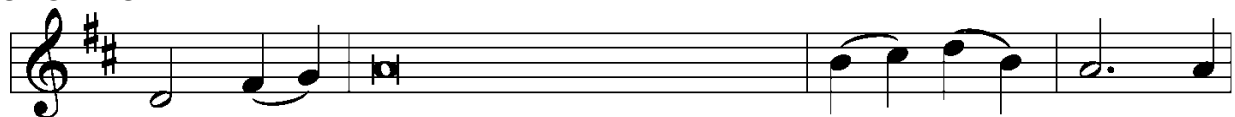


Feed me now and ev - er - more; Feed me now and ev - er - more.
 Shield me with your might - y arm; Shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more; I will raise for - ev - er - more.

*Text: William Williams, 1717-91; tr. composite, alt.
 © Tune: John Hughes, 1873-1932*

CWM RHONDDA
 87 87 877

SONG OF SIMEON



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good --
And His mercy endures forever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Father, as You fed Your children with the True Manna, the Living Bread from Heaven, give unto us, we humbly pray You, that the Body and Blood of Your Son may be our support throughout our earthly pilgrimage, until we reach that land where there is neither hunger nor thirst, Your magnificent Heavenly Banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

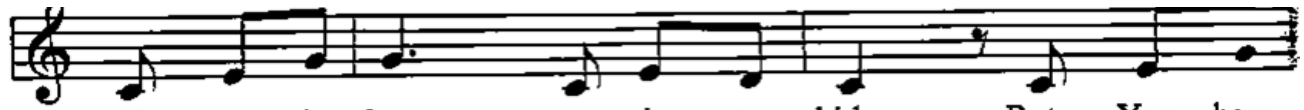
THE BLESSING [Sung]

The Lord be with you -- **And with thy spirit.**


Bless we the Lord -- **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; he Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.


Amen! Amen! A—men!



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
 2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have




sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
 brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and




Refrain

sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 rod, And to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me



in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Twila Paris © 1985 Straightway Music

Easter Pancake Breakfast

Downstairs following our Easter church service!

Menu: pancakes, sausages, hot-cross buns, coffee, & orange juice.
 + **Free-will offering** (*helps fellowship committee recover costs*) +
The men of the congregation customarily to do the cooking &
*servicing. Any & all willing or able **please sign up on forms located in***
the back narthex and place it in the offering basket or place in the
 envelope on the back bulletin board. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
Luke 19:38 (NIV)



S P R E A D O D E A E E Q R X
Y K I D D Y E R S S Y D K C S
H U M W Y S K E I H V V T G M
L N O U S T L A L D I O H A V
X R Z E F P R N O E L I M X F
C E L T I P M X R D L C U U Y
C B L C N P P R D N A E B R C
H O S L X A V E L V G S O P L
C I O U Z F M R A P E L F E O
D U G R O A D E N C G W I O A
S X I H H E A V E N E H E P K
B S Y D E J E S U S M H U L S
X U D Z C S C Y V A H N I E V
B F A V Y J T K C R O Z H L P
N Y B M I R A C L E S T C K L

BLESSED
SPREAD
DISCIPLES
NAME

MIRACLES
GLORY
CLOAKS
ROAD

HIGHEST
PRAISE
VOICES
JESUS

HEAVEN
VILLAGE
LORD
HILL

CROWD
PEOPLE
PEACE
COLT

REV. TODD HOEFFS

PALM SUNDAY

Matthew 21:1-11

Take It To The Limit...One More Time

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday began as a special holy day for Christians as far back as 250 AD.

That's the same year the Roman Empire demanded that every citizen offer a gift to the Roman gods to celebrate the Emperor as the son of the god Zeus.

Those who refused died.

Palm branches, long associated with victory, beauty and success, now became images of dying for keeping the faith in Jesus Christ.

for Whom palm branches line the streets of Jerusalem,

Paving the way to His death.

Palm branches honour the royalty of a King.

Palm branches honour the High Priesthood of ancient Israel.

A palm tree takes up to 30 years to bear good fruit;

A man can't become High Priest of the Temple until age 30.

Jesus' earthly ministry begins at age 30.

Palm branches and garments line the streets in front of Jesus.

The garments in Matthew's Gospel text are Tallit – seamless prayer shawls.

Upon the trim of the shawl are sewn in Hebrew letters that tell about the "Lord of lords and King of kings" as a reminder of the promised Saviour.

By laying their "tallit's" down,

whether by faith or by the will of God alone in this moment,

the people acknowledge that Jesus is God's promised Saviour.

The true "Lord of lords and King of kings".

On this 1st Palm Sunday, 5 days before Jesus' crucifixion,

No one imagined this is the only day they can greet the coming Lord.

This is the day when they must select their family's lamb for the Passover.

A year-old male without blemish or defect they chose.

It goes home and lives with the family until the end of the week.

Now think about how excited you and your kids get to have a new pet to play with, and you might be able to understand what the Jews went through on this day.

You feed your lamb, you take care of it,

maybe you give it toys to play with, you take it to the back yard to run and have fun, and in no time at all,

it's part of the family and you've formed a bond that wasn't there before.

But then a few days later the time for the Passover celebration comes, and that lamb they loved and hugged, they now must take into their arms to be killed for sacrifice.

It must have seemed like such a horror—

as the blood of that innocent lamb ran red into the bowl beneath.

Why did the *lamb* have to die? What did *it* do to deserve that?

That's what today involves

Not only the Passover lamb is selected –

but more importantly,

the true Lamb of God is slaughtered to take away the sins of the world.

So much happiness is in the air.

Not long before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Mourners are not joyful.

The Psalm of tears is the same for cheers.

Psalm 118.

Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna!

Which means, save us now, we pray.

The struggle gripping everyone is figuring out what kind of Saviour Jesus is.

Is He ramping up to overthrow the Romans?

Like a prize boxer posturing for a winning fight?

Is He political or religious?

He cleanses the Temple by overturning the tables selling sacrificial animals and pours out the coin boxes—

Not long 30 silver coins will pay for His apprehension.

Soon He will be overturned, beaten, ridiculed.

But today He's a hero.

Just maybe He's the One Who has come to bring God's people back to Him?

Kings with military might do not come into a city riding on a donkey.

Jesus doesn't come with His own donkey; the disciples must go and get it.

A new donkey. Never ridden. An unusual ride.

An unbroken donkey (or colt) is not nice.

It rears up with front legs in the air when someone tries to get on it and ride.

It would hate a blanket over its back,

and the waving of branches could make it very skittish.

Yet Jesus subdues this donkey. *He tames the donkey.*

As He tames the wild world of sin, darkness, death and the devil.

Scripture says that all creation will praise Him.

And why?

Because the LORD of this animal has need.

This is one of those rare Bible passages where the original Hebrew word makes a difference.

"The Lord has need of it" is how it's often recorded in our Bibles.

But it is literally THE LORD OVER THIS DONKEY has need.

Jesus Who raised the dead and cast out demons, AND created this donkey, has NEED.

Wow. We have a Lord Who is strong and powerful enough to say He has need.

He's emptying Himself of divine power.

In the likeness of an ordinary man.

True Power made perfect in weakness.

They say restraint is real power.

This is real restraint.

This makes us uncomfortable and at the same time relieved.

Uncomfortable, because that means in the face of trouble we must be restrained.

In that, we don't let our selfishness define our resume of life.

We don't just do as we please or what feels good.

We do what's right.

We live as if the Holy Spirit really is inside our hearts.

We live by faith and trust.

We don't throw that all away because we think our human survival modes of rebellion and distrust and grumbling are more effective.

They're not.

It solves nothing and makes life miserable for everyone else.

Was this a good week for you, or did that false sense of security delude you into thinking you were in control?

When tragedy struck did it ever cause you to doubt that God loves you?

Does our faith ever waver in a time of weakness?

When all is well, we take all the credit –

but, when times get tough, we seek someone else to blame.

Sometimes, we even blame God!

The *one time* when we really **should** be turning inward to seek the problem, we blindly ignore our own shortcomings and sin.

We forget that loving God and our neighbour is all that matters.

We forget to say thank you. We forget to ask for help.

We try to rely on ourselves and wind up puffing up in self-righteous pride or feeling put out when we don't get what we want.

Jesus on a donkey. Jesus Who has need is humble and servant-like.

That is how God sees us in this life.

Humble and ready to be filled with Jesus and led by the Spirit.

You see, that is what "Your King coming to you" means.

Jesus is always moving up close to you.

Everything that you have in faith comes from Jesus.

Jesus is gentle.

When we're stressed out and ready to throw in the towel,

Jesus' humble, gentle way supports and comforts us.

He isn't here to ride us into submission like the donkey,

He will be made to submit.

and listen to the lying court of Herod and the High Priest.

The Roman soldiers will drive Jesus into the ground

under the weight of the wooden cross

Until nails are pounded into His hands and feet, bolting Him to the beams.

His Love runs red like that of the most perfect, gentle, loving lamb

Whose flesh is etched with every sinner's name who ever lived.

And this One inhumane act saves us and makes us truly human.

Loved and forgiven and covered completely in Jesus.

From the cross, grace and mercy is poured out upon the entire world.

This is how our baptismal shower gains its full strength, through the Word of God

Which brings Jesus' life blood into our life blood.

In how much more of a humble entry can Jesus comes to you

When He rides into your mouths on a round wafer of bread and a drink of wine?

He unties and unbinds you from the ropes holding you back,

He breaks every yoke, and declares that you are His.

The Lord over you and me has need!

He needs each of us standing as bridges and lifelines to all those who have need.

Paving the way for other younger believers who will carry the faith

and presence of a God Who is strong enough to say He has need.

who pave the way for younger generations, whose prayers invoke His presence.

Where palms are victory branches.

Where in weakness we are strong in Jesus.

The Lord of us, Who has need, saves us now. Hosanna. Blessed is He. Amen.

