

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**Pontiac, IL**

**March 28, 2021**

**Sunday of the Passion**

**Palm Sunday**

**We gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.**

**Welcome**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Whether you have worshipped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

God’s Peace be with you.

**Introduction to the day**

**Introduction**

This week, the center of the church’s year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark’s gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ’s suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God’s salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God’s astonishing work.

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

### *Our worship begins outside as we sing and then process with palms, just as Jesus entered Jerusalem with shouts of Hosanna meaning “save us now.”*

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

**A: Hosanna in the highest**.

**Gathering Hymn All Glory Laud and Honor ELW 344**

***the congregation sings the hymn outside, waving the palms during the refrain***

**Processional Gospel: Mark 11: 1-11**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

***the congregation processes in as the Gospel is read***

1When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples 2and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 3If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’ ” 4They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” 6They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. 7Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. 8Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,  
 **“Hosanna!  
  Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
  10Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!  
 Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**  11Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, O, Christ.**

**Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the

Holy Spirit be with you all**.**

**A: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A: Amen**.

**Children’s Message**

**WORD**

**First Reading –** **Isaiah 50: 4-9a**

L: A reading from Isaiah.

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

L:Word of God, word of life.

A**: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Reading- Psalm 31: 9-16**

L: A reading from Psalm.

9Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;  
  my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.  
 10**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**  
  **my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**  
 11I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;  
  when they see me in the street they avoid me.  
 12**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;**  
  **I am as useless as a broken pot.**  
 13For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;  
  they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.  
 14**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.**  
  **I have said, “You are my God.**  
 15My times are in your hand;  
  rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.  
 16**Let your face shine upon your servant;**  
  **save me in your steadfast love.”**

L: Holy Wisdom. Holy word.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading – Philippians 2: 5-11**

L: A reading from Philippians.

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

L: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

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*Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

(spoken responsively)

L: Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even death on a cross.

**A: Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above ev’ry name.**

**The Passion According to St. Mark**

**Hymns During Passion Reading: Go to dark Gethsemane ELW 347**

**O Sacred Head, now Wounded ELW 351**

**Were you There? ELW 353**

**Apostle’s Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession**

Throughout our prayers, we will use words from today’s Psalm. Each petition ends “God we pray to you”. The congregation is invited to respond, **“save us in your steadfast love.”**

**Sharing the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by saying or typing, “Peace be with you.”*

**MEAL**

**Offering**

*Offerings can be placed in the offering box at the back of the sanctuary, made by mail or online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at* [*stpaulpontiac.org*](http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/)*The offering box that is brought forward represents all of the ways we give.*

**Offertory Music The Palms Instrumental**

**Offering Prayer**

L: Faithful God,

You walk beside us in desert places,

And you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.

Accompany us in this meal,

That we may pass over from death to life

With Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A: Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface**

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts

and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,

that, renewed in the gift of baptism,

we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn saying

**A: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory**

**Hosanna in the highest,**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

L: Blessed are you O God,

for you made the earth and all that is, and declared it good.

Blessed are you,

for in Christ you entered into creation,

into our humanity, into our vulnerability, into our mortality.

You stayed with us through conflict, through suffering, through death.

Blessed are you for raising Jesus from the dead,

in him promising new life to us all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Come, Lord, Jesus, in this meal,

and make us alive again.

By your Spirit,

bind us to that holy communion of saints in every time and place,

and make us your body in the world,

bringing light and healing to all.

**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

**A: 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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

L: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

**Communion Hymns Grace is Not Earned Kate Simmons**

**Jesus Messiah Chris Tomlin**

**Prayer After Communion**

*a blessing is given, a prayer follows*

L: God of steadfast love,

at this table you gather your people

into one body for the sake of the world.

Send us in the power of your Spirit,

That our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new

In Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Announcements**

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

L: You are what God made you to be:

Created in Christ Jesus for good works,

Chosen as holy and beloved,

Freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,

In the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**A: Amen.**

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Share the good news.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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Thank you to all those who contributed to today’s service: Worship Slides: Julie Mehlberg, Lector: Judy Sykes, Ushers: Rosemary Sutton, Musician: Sandy Erickson, Livestream: Louis Kehinde, Sound: John Mehlberg