

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Today's Gospel reading looks at the first day of Holy Week, and the Passion carries us on to Jesus' tomb. Throughout the entire week, and since His transfiguration, our Lord has moved toward the cross step by step. Despite opposition from crowds and His circle of friends, He has been determined to love us to death so that He might open heaven to us by the grace of God. Zechariah had written about the procession centuries earlier, and Paul proclaims that God the Father has exalted Jesus for His steadfast commitment to our salvation. But this is no mere history! We also are called to follow, to live through each day, step by step, faithful under various circumstances yet confident of mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

{LSB 442 -5 stanzas}

Refrain: *All glory, laud, and honor
To whom the lips of children*

*To You, Redeemer, King,
Made sweet hosannas ring.*

You are the King of Israel
Now in the Lord's name coming,

And David's royal Son,
Our King and Blessèd One. **Refrain**

The company of angels
And we with all creation

Is praising You on high,
In chorus make reply. **Refrain**

The multitude of pilgrims
Our praise and prayer and anthems

With palms before You went;
Before You we present. **Refrain**

To You before Your passion
To You, now high exalted,

They sang their hymns of praise;
Our melody we raise. **Refrain**

As You received their praises,
O Source of ev'ry blessing,

Accept the prayers we bring,
Our good and gracious King. **Refrain**

INVOCATION

(please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Today is the beginning of Holy Week. During it we shall recall how our Savior gave His life so that our sins may all be forgiven, and heaven opened to us.

People: Even during worship, our minds wander to other concerns.

Pastor: These concerns are already known to God. Give them into His loving hands for resolution, but turn your hearts and minds to focus on our Lord's step-by-step determination to free us from every sin. Confident of the forgiveness He won through His glorious death and resurrection, let us then admit our sinful condition to Him and to one another.

People: I confess to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in my thinking, speaking, and acting. I am mired in sin and incapable of saving myself. Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake and because of His sacrifice for us fallen creatures, we beg You to forgive, strengthen, and turn us to Your will so that we may follow our Savior in loving service to You and to one another.

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, who gave Himself over to death that we might have eternal life, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✂ WORD ✂

INTROIT

Antiphon, Psalm 27:14; Psalm 27: 4-5, 6b

All: **Blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,

People: **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,

People: **that the King of glory may come in.**

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

People: **The LORD, of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

All: **Blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross.

People: **Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

(The King comes humbly on a donkey.)

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. 11 As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. 2 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 2:5-11

(Because of His humble death, Christ has been exalted by the Father.)

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 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**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

(please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL: John 12:12-19

(The triumphal entry.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 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!” 14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, 15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!” 16 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. 17 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. 18 The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. 19 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: “Lift High the Cross”

{LSB 837 – 6 stanzas}

Refrain: *Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

MESSAGE: "Leave the Clamor Behind"

John 12:12-19

OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (LSB 781 - vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRAYER

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.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

{LSB 443 – 3 stanzas}

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
Through pillared court and temple
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
The children sang their praises,

The little children sang;
The lovely anthem rang.
Close folded to His breast,
The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
The victor palm branch waving
The Lord of earth and heaven
Nor scorned that little children

“Hosanna in the highest!”
For Christ is our Redeemer,
Oh, may we ever praise Him
And in His blissful presence

Mid an exultant crowd,
And chanting clear and loud.
Rode on in lowly state
Should on His bidding wait.

That ancient song we sing;
The Lord of heav’n our King.
With heart and life and voice
Eternally rejoice!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...

Prayers for **Chris Carter** & wife Penny as he undergoes chemo and radiation.

Brad and Laura Sanders offer praise for daughter **Naomi** safely delivered a boy, 7am March 20, **Kaeden Socrates Pittman, 8 lb. 6 Oz, 21 1/2 inches**, and for Laura's **Father, Jack**.

Prayers for **David Sattler** undergoing air passage widening surgery Friday March 22.

Prayers for **John Soper** for healing and pain relief.

Prayers for **Gloria Bloecher** & her **medical team** as she remains in their care.

Debra Beard requests prayers for her brother, **Tod Dunlevy** in Wisconsin.

Karen Brosien requests prayers for her **Father, Carl Landinger**, dealing with a kidney tumor; **for daughter Amelia** fighting infection in her knee following surgery; and for **her brothers** in Northeast Texas.

Shirley Moore requests prayers for her brother, **Robert English**, as he waits on a liver biopsy.

Larry & Pam Risley request prayer for family friend **Richard Atkins**, who has entered hospice care suffering from brain stem cancer, and for his wife, for strength and perseverance.

Jim Minica recovering from strokes.

Kim Pfaff recovering from quadruple heart bypass surgery.

Kathy Giardinelli requests prayers for the **Mission Aviation Fellowship** and especially the **Wolf Family** as they begin training to serve the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Rutledge Family requests prayers for Sister-in-Law **Heather Mulledy** battling breast cancer

Mark Giardinelli who will be going to **Ysleta El Paso Lutheran Mission** in June.

Parker's and Theis's request prayers for **Robert Patterson** undergoing cancer treatment.

Prayers for Justice & Peace around the world

For the Pastoral call committee and process.

For family discord, reconciliation, & healing; for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for all those with physical, emotional, or other needs

Prayers for all who are lost to hear & receive Jesus' Gospel message

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

***Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray,
trusting in Your mercy; thru Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

MARCH ALTAR FLOWERS

Mar 3rd – Vonda Petmecky – in memory of Fred's birthday

Mar 10th – Linda Dicke – Thanking God for His many blessings

Mar 17th – Marilyn Mazurek – celebrating Ernie's birthday

Mar 24th – Rolf & Linda Schulz – celebrating 60th wedding anniversary

Mar 31st – Joe & Verna Sorensen – Thanking God for His many blessings

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . *Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!*

TODAY - Palm Sunday - 9:15 am Adult Bible Study in the Sanctuary - 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Church - Mario and Eve Betancourt will host Messiah's Children's Church during the Worship Service followed by a Palm Processional. 11:45 am Messiah's Multi-generational Easter Celebration

Holy Week Schedule –

Mar. 28th - Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm

Mar. 29th - Good Friday at 6:30 pm

Mar. 31st - Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service at 7:30 am with communion

Mar. 31st – Easter Sunday – Continental Breakfast at 8:30 am

Mar. 31st – Easter Sunday - Festival Service at 10:30 am with communion

Upcoming Events –

March 26th - Tuesday Prayer Breakfast & Bible Study at Reyna's at 8:30 am (every Tuesday)

April 11th – Messiah Ladies Spring Lunch on Dodging Duck Patio at 11:00 am

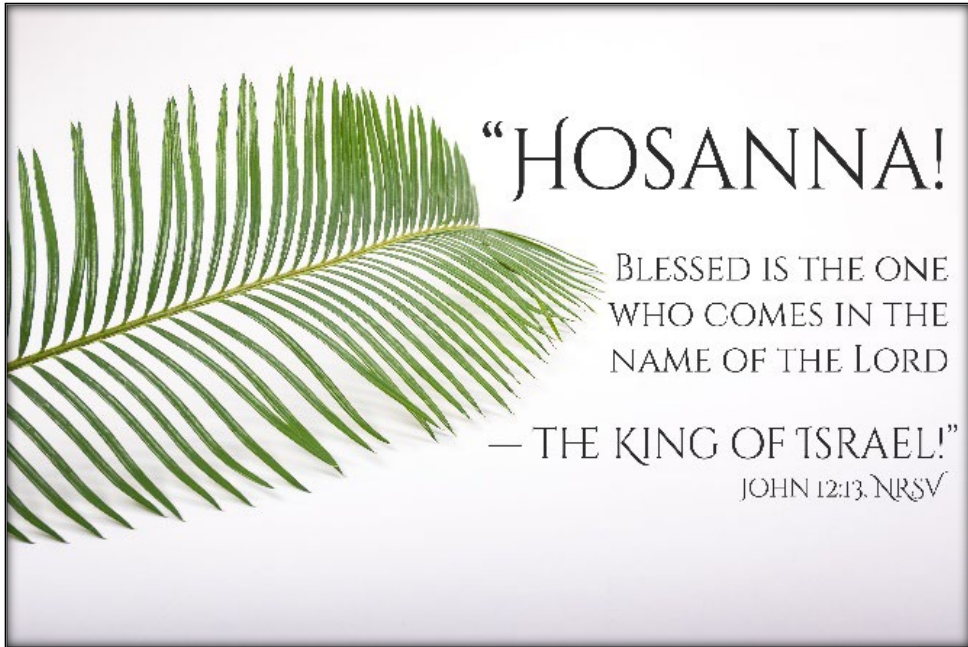
April 19th – Spring Outing – Breakfast at Café on the Ridge in Kerrville at 9:30 am

April 20th – Adult Game Day in the Fellowship Room of the Family Life Center from 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Messiah's Fellowship Committee - Wine Tasting at the home of David & Kathleen Blakely, 179 Mira Vista Dr., Comfort, TX (between Comfort and Center Point) on **May 4th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**. The fellowship committee will provide hors d'oeuvres and snacks. We ask that you bring your favorite beverage - wine, soft drinks, juice, as you prefer - to share.

Family Picnic on Saturday, June 1st from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Joshua Springs Park Large Pavilion (just off I-10 between Boerne and Comfort). Bill Miller will be catering the event which will include plates with 2 meats (brisket and turkey), coleslaw, potato salad, charro beans and iced tea. We will be selling tickets for this event beginning Sunday, April 28th. The price will be \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. There will be games and activities to enjoy!

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MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us this coming Palm Sunday – March 24, 2024

Elders:	Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann
Coffee:	Verna Sorensen
Breakfast:	Verna Sorensen
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Children’s Church:	Mario & Eve Betancourt
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	David & Lorrie Wendeborn
Reader:	Hal Eschenko
Ushers:	Snookie & Shirley Moore – Tom Bibb – Joe Sorensen
Greeter:	Lynn Lang

Serving us Maundy Thursday – March 28, 2024

Elders:	Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid’s Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Gianni Betancourt
Reader:	Kathlin Jauregui
Ushers:	OPEN
Greeter:	OPEN

**Our Response to God Sunday
Worship Attendance: 38**

February 2024 Contributions			
General Fund	\$53,967.30	Building Fund	\$1,045.00
Renovation Fund	\$0.00	FLC Rental	\$5,225.00