



**The Sunday of the Passion
(Palm Sunday)
March 28, 2021**

in the 168th Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”

An Order of Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

Ellacombe

J. Wayne Kerr

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS**

Acclamation

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

C **Hosanna in the Highest.**

The Palm Gospel

P The triumphal entry of our Lord according to St. Mark:

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!"

Blessing the Palms

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P We praise and thank you O God, for the great acts by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path.

We ask that you bless these palms and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now forever.

C **Amen**

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

C **Hosanna in the highest!**

***HYMN** **All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

Refrain

**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. *Refrain***

**The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;**

**our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. Refrain**

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, 760-821. Tune: VALET WILLICH DIR GEBEN

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

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.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 50:4-9a

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?
The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16

9Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.
**10For 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.
**12Like 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.
**14But 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.
**16Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”**

THE SECOND LESSON.....Philippians 2:5-11

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.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Mark 15:1-39

P The Passion of our Lord according to St. Mark, the 15th chapter.

C Glory to you O Lord.

The congregation is asked to remain seated until the phrase, "They brought Jesus to the place of Gologotha" (v.22). When this verse is read, the congregation will please stand.

1As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." 3Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." 5But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

6Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. 7Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. 8So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. 9Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" 10For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. 11But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. 12Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" 13They shouted back, "Crucify him!" 14Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" 15So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

16Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. 17And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. 18And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 19They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. 20After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

21They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. 22Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). *The congregation will please stand.*

23And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take

it. 24And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

25It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. 26The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." 27And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. 29Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30save yourself, and come down from the cross!" 31In 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. 32Let 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.

33When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34At 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?" 35When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." 36And 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." 37Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39Now 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!"

P The Passion of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Silence for reflection

THE SERMON

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith:

**C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Hear Us, O God/Your Mercy is Great.**

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace, with masks in place, avoiding physical touch and consciously staying six feet apart from one another.

***THE GREAT THANKSIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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 are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P 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.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

**C 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**

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

C Amen.

***THE COMMUNION**

***LAMB OF GOD**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die,
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!**

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt.
Tune: THE KING'S MAJESTY

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Share the Good News!
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Sarabande* G. F. Handel

+++++
Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, George Kissinger, The Family of Edward Cioffi.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

LECTORS 8 am Leah Hausmann/ 10:30 am Ray Huff
CANTOR/SONG LEADER (10:30 am) Karen Mariano
ORGANIST Sam Robinson

USHERS: March 28

8 am Dick Miller, Herb Poff

10:30 am Matt Fortin- Captain, Glenn Yapple, Bud Doebler, Cindy Huff (side door).

Our Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God:
In loving memory of all loved ones by Gary and Donna CLark
In loving honor of my husband Frank Vognet by Shirley Vognet

Our Stewardship (3/21/2021)

Regular Offering	\$6,786
Plate Offering	\$ 20
Lent	\$ 191
Sunday School Offering	\$ 12
Synod Benevolence	\$ 20
Pastor' Discretionary Fund	\$ 20
GRAND TOTAL	\$7,049

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Camp Mt. Luther is gearing up for Summer 2021! Camping brochures, information regarding openings for staff and volunteers and special events held at the camp are available from our Church Office (570-323-4619).

By action of our Congregational Council, Sunday in-person worship and Sunday Church School have resumed (Worship, 8:00 am and 10:30 am; Church School, 9:15 am). Please follow all CDC and St. Mark protocols which include mask-wearing, social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office (570-323-4619).

Holy Week and Easter Schedule, 2021:

Maundy Thursday (April 1, 2021)

Holy Communion and stripping the Church in the nave at 7 pm. Due to CDC Guidelines the service will not include foot washing.

Good Friday (April 2, 2021)

Virtual Community Good Friday Service only. 12:15-12:45 pm on the United Churches of Lycoming County Facebook page.

Holy Saturday (April 3, 2021)

No Vigil this year due to COVID-19

Easter Sunday (April 4, 2021)

8 am Easter Eucharist (Nave)
9:15 am Sunday Church School
10:30 am Easter Eucharist (Nave)

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at both of the worship services will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

COMEMMORATIONS

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824

Monday, March 29, 2021

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.