

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday + Saturday, April 12, 2025



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

WELCOME

ACCLAMATION

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸ After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God,

for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph

and was proclaimed messiah and king

by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,

so that, joined to his death and resurrection,

we enter into life with you;

through the same Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PROCESSION

The assembly processes into the sanctuary.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, 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.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience amid persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me

a trained tongue,

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 in court together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 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.

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.**
- ¹³ For 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.**
- ¹⁵ My 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."**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

A reading from Philippians.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASSION OF OUR LORD: Luke 22:14—23:56

Through the teachings and events of the passion story we see and hear the great contradictions that characterize the coming of God's reign. The leader serves the followers, proud Peter is revealed in his cowardice, and Jesus—the innocent bringer of life—is arrested, beaten, executed, and buried.

CREED

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love.

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering.

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Bring healing and wholeness to all who are ill or suffering in body, mind and spirit, especially those we remember now by speaking their names out loud or in our heart or online. Be with us in our suffering, sustain us in our faith and bring us to the joy of resurrection and new life. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus.

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence.

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

We give our offerings in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ and for the sake of Jesus' ongoing mission and ministry in this world. We have been entrusted to carry out this mission Jesus' name, bringing the good news of Jesus to the people of this community and around the world. In this season of Lent, we are called to sacrificial giving as a way to grow in our love for God and neighbor. In addition to your regular gift and offering please give as you are able to endow our food pantry for its future ministry. Please, take a minute of your time to make an electronic gift through the St. Paul's Website www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html. Please consider making this gift a recurring gift, and look for ways to grow in your giving for the sake of Christ's mission through this congregation. You may also mail your offering to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 445 Old Post Rd., Edison NJ 08817.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL: PALM SUNDAY (4/13) OR EASTER SUNDAY (4/20). Our Sunday school will participate in a Passion Experience during worship on Palm/ Passion Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday. Our class resumes on Sunday, April 27.

WORSHIP MATTERS. We will continue with Part 4 of our Worship Matters Study on Sunday, April 27 after worship.

CHOSEN, SEASON 5, Part 3. Sunday, April 13, at 1:00 p.m. After worship on Sunday, we head over to Hadley Center to watch part 3 of Chosen: Last Supper. We will meet at 12:30 p.m. Regal Cinemas, Hadley Center, 1000 Corporate Ct, South Plainfield NJ.

WALKING AT MENLO MALL. Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Call your friends and put on your walking shoes and meet at Nordstrom entrance to the mall. Enjoy fellowship, prayer and a walk around the mall.

SING WITH THE CHOIR! The choir is preparing for Holy Week and Easter. Please consider sharing your voice during this holy season. The choir rehearses at 9:00 a.m. each week.

FORTY-DAY FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE. Collect one item a day to give to our food pantry, and then bring those items with your offering to worship each week.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE. April 17-April 20. Our journey through Lent takes us to the Great Three Days: a single liturgy over three nights.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m.,

Good Friday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil, April 19, at 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY: SEVEN LAST WORDS. Friday, April 18, noon. Come and join the people of St. Stephen Lutheran in South Plainfield for a Good Friday service focusing on

Jesus' seven words from the cross. Pastor Jim will share a meditation on three of the words. St. Stephen is located at 3145 Park Ave. South Plainfield NJ 07080.

3 F T EASTER EGG HUNT. Saturday April 19, 2025 at 10 a.m. Arrive by 9:45am.

There will be fun activities, games, snacks, coloring and contests. Take your picture with the Easter Bunny. Please register in advance by signing up at church or calling the church office at 732.287.0888. Invite your friends and family for a hoppin-good time. Easter bags will be provided.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE EASTER EGG ARE NEEDED!

- We need your help to make sure our Easter Egg hunt runs smoothly.
- Set up, clean up
- Assisting Sue with children's activities
- Providing specific snacks.
- Help to fill the 700 Easter eggs on Palm Sunday after service.
- Help the morning of the hunt to hide the 700 eggs.

Sign up sheets are on the table in the parlor, Thank you in advance.

LAWN CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. We are looking for a number of people/families to mow and trim the lawn for a two-week periods this summer. To volunteer and to sign up for block this summer, contact Paul Stofa (paulstofa@yahoo.com).

YARD CLEAN UP DAY. Sunday, May 4, after worship. Bring a change of clothes and head out into the church grounds to give our property a good spring cleaning.

START AND END YOUR DAY IN PRAYER

DAILY PRAYER. Daily prayer is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to keep us in faith. Here are two ways to make daily prayer part of your life: a daily service of morning prayer and a daily service of night prayer.

Morning Prayer: Start each day (Monday through Saturday) with a brief service of Morning Prayer. This service is available as an audio file on the [St. Paul's Website](#) and the St. Paul's Facebook each morning. You can listen and pray along from your home or take it with you as you exercise or commute.

Night Prayer. End your day in prayer and fellowship. This ongoing prayer group meets **on Zoom each night at 9:00 p.m.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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