St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Palm Sunday
April 14, 2019

Palm Sunday
They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,
“Hosanna!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Blessed is the king of Israel!”
John 12:13

Sergio Rodriguez, Vicar
Mike Tessman, Worship Assistant
Readers: Sandra Dickens, Mike Tessman, Rita Jordan, Dale Tessman,
Ronnie Retzloff, Mary Maddox
Rita Jordan, Organist

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Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The voice of the suffering savior, Jesus, can be heard in the prophet Isaiah’s words and the pleading of the psalm. We are invited into the agony of our Lord in the extended reading of the story of Jesus’ passion. In the second reading, we who have put on Christ in holy baptism are urged to let the mind of Christ be our own. Lent leads us to this holy moment. Embrace it.

ACCLAMATION

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

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to Luke 19:28-40

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 As he was now 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!" 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." 40 He 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

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN  (ELW p. 344)  All Glory, Laud, and Honor

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.

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.

The assembly is seated

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant’s obedience in the midst of 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.

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.

7 The 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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

8 It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 31:9-16

R: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

9 Have 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. I 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.

11 Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.

12 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.

13 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, “You are my God. My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

14 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.

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

PASSION STORY

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 351) O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

NICENE 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

Trusting in Christ’s passover from death to new life, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

The assembly shall kneel, as they are able

God, most holy and humble, plant in your church Christ’s spirit of humility. Remove any barriers preventing us from seeing his saving work on the cross. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You reveal your will for all creation through stones, seas, mountains, and meadows. In the splendor of what you have made, show us your care for everything, both great and small. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Rescue those who suffer torture, and free those held captive by others. Bring to light the hidden systems that perpetuate injustice among your people. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Pour courage and hope into people who feel like they are wasting away in distress and grief, especially The Lomas Family, The Rodriguez Family, The Thieme Family, Gilbert, Mitch, Laquita, Mary Louise, Francis, Elfren, Leroy, John, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts… Restore their trust in you, even as you meet their every need. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Open our hearts and minds to receive the words that you speak. Give us words to encourage the weary and to sustain one another in word and deed. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter’s in Elgin that they may continue the path you have shown them through continued vision and direction, as you use them as an instrument of grace in their community. We pray for St. Paul’s – Karnes City and St. Paul’s – Nordheim as the congregations grow their ministries through the St. Paul’s Squared opportunity. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

With all churches in the Southwestern Texas Synod we pray for each other and also for ELCA member congregations such as those in the North Texas North Louisiana Synod, Faith Lutheran Church in McDade, TX, and Midland University. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.
Gather your saints into the new covenant that Christ has established for all creation. When we fall into sin, continually renew us until Christ dwells with us again in fullness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Attend to the needs of the whole world with your saving grace, and lead us all into new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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**Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING**

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. A *Special Offering* will be received for the Lomas, Rodriguez and Thieme Families that lost their homes to fires in the past week.

*(ELW p. 186)  Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. **Amen.**


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**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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:
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. 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. 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

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

> 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**

Christ has prepared the feast.  
Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

The assembly is seated.
COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Tender and merciful one,
at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing,
turning our emptiness into joy.
Filled with your abundant grace,
send us now to be ministers of reconciliation,
mending broken hearts, working for justice,
and striving for peace among all people,
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.
Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
+ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

Amen.

SENDING SONG  (ELW p. 811)  On My Heart Imprint Your Image

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY  (ELW p. 884)  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

For Prayerful Consideration

*Il! Injured or Otherwise Struggling:* Gilbert Anthony, Mitch Dorn, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Raymond Jenkins, Mary Louise Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, the Lomas family, Khloe Martinez, Elfren Moczygemba, John Moczygemba, Leroy Polderick, the Rodriguez family, Carly Rosenboon, John Tackitt, the Thieme family, Jerry Vajdos, Yvonne Watkins, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow

*For those in the military:* Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva
Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. **If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

Coming Events

Let’s join together and PARTICIPATE

**Holy Week & Easter Worship Schedule**

*Maundy Thursday, April 18 – 7:30 p.m.*

*Good Friday, April 19 – 7:30 p.m.*

**Easter Celebration**

Breakfast Potluck, Egg Hunt, Fellowship & Education – 9:00 a.m.
Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Summer Camp Sign Ups

Sign Up now for Summer Camp 2019! This summer, we will explore how God calls each of us to do God’s work in the world! Everyone has a part when God is in Action! Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch Camp, Beach Camp, Day Camp, and Texas Trek. For more information on Summer Camp, visit [www.crosstrails.org/summer-camp](http://www.crosstrails.org/summer-camp) Cross Trails is still in need of summer staff.
From the Interfaith Welcome Coalition of San Antonio via the Southwestern Texas Synod: The city has done a great job pulling together city and non-profit organizations to help immigrants as they travel through San Antonio. The city and non-profits are in it for as long as needed, and we need your help.

Help is needed to sort donations at Catholic Charities at 202 W. French Place, San Antonio (210) 222-1294 and to organize and replenish the needs at the Resource Center set up by the city close to the bus station.

Donations needed through Catholic Charities:
- children’s shoes
- socks for men, women, and children
- new underwear for men, women, and children.
- light weight car seats for those traveling by Flix bus
- clothing that is clean and in good condition, particularly more babies and young children
- donations for travel tickets for Eagle Pass families

Interfaith Welcome Coalition needs:
- volunteers
- financial donations
- backpack items, including:
  - toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste, hand wipes, travel size Kleenex, hair bands or scrunchies
  - fruit snacks, trail mix, granola bars, packages of animal crackers, Cheezits or salty snacks (peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, etc.)
  - bottles of water and water bottles
  - pens, small note pads, coloring books, crayons, small blankets (4x6)
  - English-Spanish dictionaries
  - small stuffed animals

Please send the backpack donations to:
Interfaith Welcome Coalition
Jane Fried
University Presbyterian Church
300 Bushnell Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78212

Also Needed: Lunches - To - Go!
When families are welcomed at the bus station by Interfaith Welcome Coalition, they are in the midst of their long journeys to sponsors and family. Interfaith Welcome Coalition provides encouragement and hope along with a back pack full of travel items & a ‘double’ lunch to keep them nourished during the remainder of their trip.

The wonderful volunteers of Mobile Loaves and Fishes provide 200 ‘double’ lunches each week. Interfaith Welcome Coalition gives out a total of 350 - 400 lunches.

Where do the rest of those ‘double’ lunches come from? They are delivered to the bus station by volunteers who gather a group of friends to purchase the supplies, assemble the lunches and bring them to the bus station. It is a great group-project! It is a great way to lend your support to courageous families who are seeking peace and safety.

Get in on the action! Call, text or email Dawn Silvius to volunteer or get more information. (210) 559-6453 dawnsilvius@gmail.com
Dear Friends in Christ:

Last Thursday evening I had the privilege of joining with other religious and community leaders from San Antonio to celebrate San Antonio’s commitment to be a Compassionate city, following the golden rule that is present in all faith traditions in some form. You can learn more about this at https://begoldenjourney.com/.

Our own Rev. Ann Helmke, who serves as the community faith-based liaison for the city of San Antonio, challenged us as Lutherans that night to join this international movement. As Pastor Helmke said – “compassion is already in our DNA; so we live into it as we begin to use it as a lens to view our behavior towards others, all others (no exceptions!)”. I pledged that we as the Office of the Bishop in the Southwestern Texas Synod would join up as a “Golden Ambassador” and that I would invite congregations in the greater San Antonio area and beyond to participate as well. So here I am, inviting you to join this free challenge by talking it over with your congregations and signing up at www.begoldensa.com.

Imagine what our cities and communities would be like if we intentionally focused on this behavior in the coming weeks, months and years? If we lived into who we already are in Christ Jesus? I hope you will consider doing this with your congregations.

In Christ’s amazing love,

Sue J Briner

Bishop Sue Briner