

PALM SUNDAY

✠ The Sunday of the Passion ✠

Holy Communion



March 24, 2024
10:00 a.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1479 Morse Road + Columbus, OH 43229

"Our mission is to welcome all people in learning, living, and sharing God's grace."

A few notes about worship:

- Ascension strives to be a welcoming and safe place for all. Masks are optional: anyone may choose to wear a mask for any reason. Masks may be found on the back table in the sanctuary.
- Unchanged is our commitment to an excellent virtual worship experience. If you are unable to join in the sanctuary, worship services are streamed live on Facebook. Instructions on how to participate or view later the on-line (with or without a Facebook account) is on our website.
- **There are now three different options for receiving Holy Communion.** You may come forward and receive communion at the front in a continuous fashion (instructions will be given). Or, you may pick up communion elements on the back table as you arrive to commune yourself in the pew at the appropriate time. Or, you may remain in your pew, and communion will be brought to you (please inform the usher).

PLEASE NOTE:

Gluten-free wafers are available. Indicate to Pastor this preference as you come forward.

Grape juice is available: The white cups on the tray are grape juice; the red cups are wine.

- We are glad to have children in worship. We also know that children sometimes need to move and express themselves in ways that the pews don't accommodate. There is a family break room; and you are free to use it as needed. It is located in the back of the sanctuary.

ELW – indicates Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal – in the pew.

ACS – indicates All Creation Sings

W&P – indicates Worship & Praise

WOV – indicates With One Voice – in the pew

Bold print indicates Congregation.

Please rise as you are able at the titles marked with a plus sign - +.

At places where the cross ✝ appears, it is customary to make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.

Worship Notes:

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.



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Please like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranChurch>

✠ Gathering ✠

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

+ Call to Worship

A: Hosanna to the Son of David!

C: **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

A: By your holy cross

C: **You have redeemed the world.**

A: Hosanna to the Son of David!

C: **Hosanna in the highest!**



+Processional Gospel

Mark 11: 1-11

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?" ⁶The disciples 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 dominion of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹¹Then Jesus 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.

+Blessing of the Palms

(raise your palms)

P: The Lord be with you.

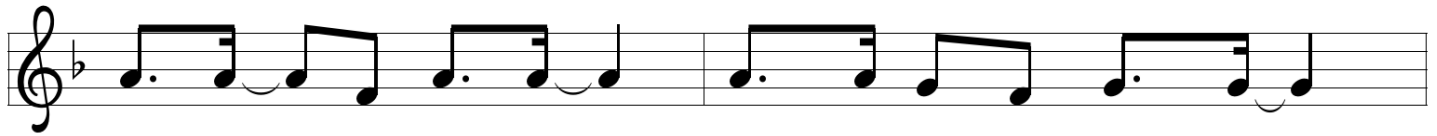
C: **And also with you.**

P: We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love 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 leafy branches in his path.

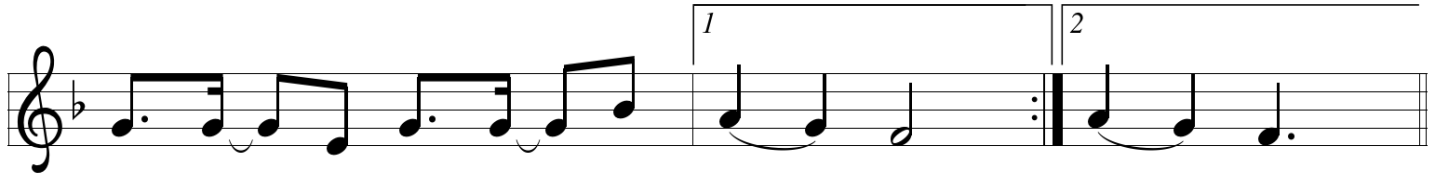
We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Let us go forth in peace.

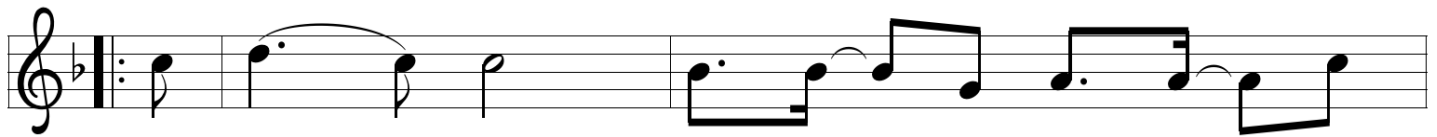
C: **In the name of the Lord!** *(The congregation follows the cross into the sanctuary to be seated).*



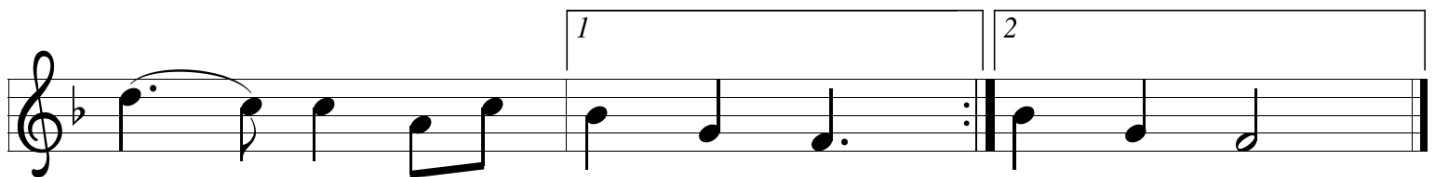
*Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es.



Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na.



Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -



san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace.

*Additional verses ad lib.:

Release for the captives . . .

Hope for the downtrod . . .

Land for the landless . . .

Debts are forgiven . . .

+Prayer of the Day

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

C: **Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **God, this is the day when everything changes, and we are pulled along: bodies dancing, voices singing, calling for you to save us. In the heart of the whirl, there is no warhorse for you, only the quiet steps of a colt. Sweep us up with exuberance and still us with quiet joy. Prepare us to meet you again at the cross and the empty tomb. Amen. (Please be seated)**

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

✠ Word ✠

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

Old Testament Lesson

The servant of the Lord submits to suffering

Isaiah 50:4-9a

A: A reading from Isaiah.


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 the Lord GOD 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;
⁸the one who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

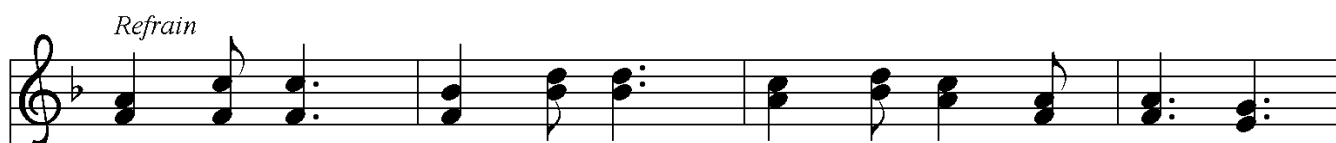


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

+Prayers of Intercession

A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

A: Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Establish peace and justice among the nations (*regions in conflict may be named*). Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Give energy and joy to our pastor/s, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers (*individuals preparing for baptism and confirmation may be named*). Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life. (*We give thanks for the courage of Oscar Arnulfo Romero, bishop and martyr, whom we commemorate today.*)

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

+Sharing of Christ's Peace

A: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Please share with one another Christ's peace, and when the music begins, please be seated.

Offering

An offering will be taken up today and the ushers will come to you; or you may go to www.ascension-columbus.org to give electronically. We give thanks to you for your generosity of spirit.

Offering Music

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace,

you give us so much:

our days, our loved ones, our passions, and talents,

the food we eat, the homes we know, a place to worship.

God, you pour out an abundance of goodness.

Receive the gifts we offer back to you today.

Bless them and bless us, that we will

give generously, love boldly, and share widely,

our offering reflecting your joyful gift.

C: **Amen.**

✠ Meal ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

+Eucharistic Prayer

God is with you.

And also with you.

Rejoice with full hearts.

We offer them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.



God, there is no time, no place

where you are not present,

and there is no time, no place

where we should not practice the joy of praising you:

even here, even now, in our ordinary lives.

As we give thanks, we join the choir
of our ancestors and our heirs
and all God's angels
as they time their breath to the rhythm of joy
and sing of heaven despite the world.

**Holy, holy, holy are you,
O Lord, our God.**

God, our ancestors knew the long road toward joy.
Noah saw your rainbow after a devastating flood.
Sarah and Abraham found hope for their future
in a covenant promise.
Moses cradled your law in his arms
and the Israelites found in the wilderness life
where they should have died.
The prophets read your faithfulness
traced indelibly on their hearts.
Your love sent us Jesus
and his persistent, irrational joy:
dripping with the Jordan's baptismal flood,
teaching in the crowd's beating heart,
tossing the tables of empire and profit,
falling like a seed into warm dark soil
as he offered his life for us all.

On the last night of his life, as evening fell,
Jesus sat down to dinner with his friends.
He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it,
and passed it around the table for everyone to eat, saying,
This is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal had ended, the shadows closing in,
Jesus took the cup, blessed it,
and invited everyone 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.

In the heart of fear and pain,
God plants the seed of our joy:
**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup,
Christ's body and blood,
the food that gives us the strength to persist
until joy appears.
Send your Spirit upon us
and fortify us to be your body, too,
a wellspring of hope for a world in need.

All glory, power, and honor are yours,
God of brilliant resurrection and quiet joy,
today and every day. **Amen.**

+Lord's Prayer

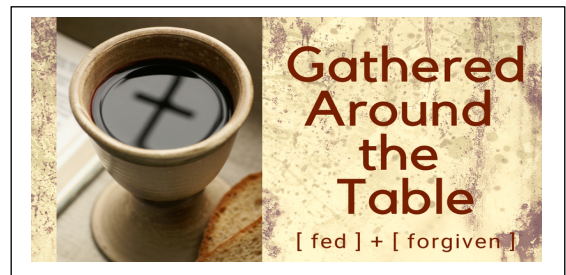
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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: Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Please be seated.



Sharing of the Bread and Cup

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. Please see the "Worship Notes" at the front of the bulletin regarding the options to receive communion, plus the options (gluten-free, grape juice...) for communion elements.

Communion Hymn

"Lamb of God"

ELW 336



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Blessing at the Table

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer of Preparation for the Reading of the Passion

A: God of our hosannas, save us and set us free from everything that saps our lives. Draw us into your sacred story, open to what you will reveal. In grief, in death, in awe, show us that you are here at the heart of it all.

C: Amen.

✠ Sending ✠

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

The Passion of Our Lord According to St. Mark

Sending Song

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

W&P 77

Verse 1

Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord
Emmanuel God is with us
Blessed Redeemer living Word

Verse 2

Jesus loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches Son of God
Prince of Peace Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the universe Light of the world

Verse 3

Praise him Lord above all lords
King above all kings God's only Son
The Prince of Peace who by his Spirit
Comes to live in us Master and Friend

Naida Hearn

CCLI Song #21291

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+Commissioning

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. Amen.**

Philippians 2:5-11



+Blessing

P: Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

+Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+++

Serving in Worship

Presider and Preacher: Pastor Karen Asmus-Alsnauer

Assisting Minister: Jan Dahlstrom

Organist and Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Ed Duling

CWS Band: Tom Martin (Director and bass), Ed Hinton (drums), Von Smith (guitar),
Chris Young (piano).

Ascending Tones Bell Choir: Jan Dahlstrom, Director

Altar Guild: Jan Dahlstrom, Brenda Noe, Peggy Dlusky, Pam Kratzer

Ushers: Alan Dahlstrom, Mike Fitak

Tech Crew: Oscar Kamazima, Joel Kratzer, Dave Holtzapple

Librarian: Martha Gostely

Hospitality: Allan and Cindy Hiscox, Robin Kern, Joyce Heft, Karen Lashley, Sandra
Stohr, Sandy Baker, Sara Smith, and Myron Miller.

Passion Readers:

Narrator: Joe Riggs

Jesus: Robin Kern

High Priest: Vall Greer

Judas: Fred Helser

Peter: Amanda Wiesehan

Servant Girl: Sandy Nicholson

Bystander: Cathy Miller

Pilate: Dave Kern

Centurion: Vicki Blaesing



Join us ...

Holy Week and Easter

All worships will be in the sanctuary and FB Live.

<https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranChurch>

March 28: Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

We remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples. At this meal Jesus washed the feet of his dearest friends to show them that the life of his followers was one of humble service.

March 29: Good Friday 7:00 pm

A Tenebrae service in which we gather at the foot of the cross to wonder at the depth of Jesus' love.

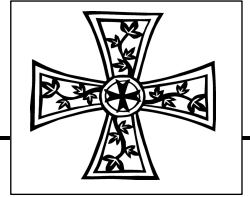
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March 31: Easter Day

Easter Brunch: 8:00 – 9:30 am

Festival Worship: 10:00 am.

We celebrate the risen Jesus! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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"God Welcomes All". Text: John L. Bell. b. 1949. Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell. Text and transcription © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community. admin. GIA Publications. Inc.. giamusic.com. All rights reserved. One License #740756

"As the Grains of Wheat". One License #740756

"Lord, Dismiss Us with your Blessing". Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thing, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.. Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent. PUBLIC DOMAIN.