



March 24, 2024
Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1655 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111

WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please prepare yourself for worship

PRELUDE: *Prelude on an Old Folk Tune, by Amy Beach*

GATHERING

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

ACCLAMATION (repeat 3 times)

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

C **Hosanna in the highest.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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!"

¹¹Then he 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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF PALMS

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

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.

C Amen.

PROCESSION

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of Christ. Amen.

The assembly follows the ministers into the church while singing.

Hymn: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

ELW #344 v1,3,4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

Silence is kept.

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMONETTE

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

L 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 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. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

℣ The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

℣ A reading from Philippians.

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.

☩ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as able.*

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

*Please join us as we hear The Passion of our Lord According to Saint Mark, found in the purple booklet. The congregation will read the parts in **bold print**, marked with the + symbol.*

SERMON

Hymn of the Day:
Please stand as able.

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

ELW #335

APOSTLES' CREED

☩ I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended

into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The congregation will respond to the assisting minister with **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING *ushers come forward*

OFFERING PRAYER *Please stand as able.*

P 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.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Communion information for our visitors All of God's people are welcome to our Lord's table

Red wine and white grape juice are offered along with our regular communion bread, wafers or Gluten-Free Wafers.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Come forward for communion or blessing.

Communion Hymn:

"Lamb of God"

ELW #336

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Please stand as able.*

P Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE BLESSING

P 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.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn:

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ELW #338

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Fugue in C major, BWV 545b, by J.S. Bach*

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For Your Information

Welcome

We are so glad that you are worshiping with us today. Following the service there will be some food and drink available in the Church Hall - which is located at the bottom of the stairs. Please join us around the fellowship table today and come back again next week!

Note – No Sunday school next week as it is Easter Sunday

Following Sunday service - Ministry Support (Fundraising) will meet again after Sunday worship to continue our energetic discussion on new ways to support our ministries both financially and socially! All ideas and hands on deck!

Upcoming Events

Thursday March 28 – Maundy Thursday evening meal and worship. Meal starting at 6pm

Saturday March 30 – Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt 10am

Sunday March 31 – Easter Sunday

Newington Food Pantry/ Newington Human Services – ministry support

Your love can feed the hungry, shelter someone who has lost everything, and remind the most vulnerable they are not forgotten. The Newington food pantry helps close this gap in food insecurity. We are collecting nonperishable food items, along with hygiene and household products. There is a list of suggested donations in the Narthex.

Clothing Shed – ministry support

Donating your excess clothing to the St Pauly shed is a win-win for the environment, people in need, and the church. OSLC **receives funding** for donated clothing and we help keep clothing out of landfills!

Accepted items: clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, towels, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals. Let your friends and neighbors know about this meaningful project.

'We Can' for Camp Calumet – ministry support

Now 10 cents! With the new bottle deposit guidelines, we now accept even more containers. In addition to regular cans and bottles we can now return juices, sports drinks, teas and coffee containers.

Reduce/Reuse/Recycle. Bring bottles here or contact Jan Levett. OSLC is collecting bottles & cans for Camp Calumet. Help support this great cause.

Final thoughts

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Worship Assistants and Contacts

Organist: David Marottolo

Assisting Minister: Steve Turner

Lector: Beth Hutvagner

Altar Guild: Lori Doll

Flowers: Lisa Jaksina

Fellowship Host: Roger and Sharon Gantenbein

Counters: Steve and Eileen Turner

Sunday School: Katie Manke

Pastor: Joseph McGarry, (315) 935-7240, joe@pastorjoemcgarry.com

Council President: Robin Aldieri, (860) 559-8480, RSAldieri@icloud.com

Custodian: Kevin Carragher, (860) 718-5270

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Office: (860) 667-2291

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Website: oursaviorslc.org

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