

Worship in the Home

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

March 28, 2021



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ.

While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Prelude

Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,

pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

All Glory, Laud & Honor

ELW # 344

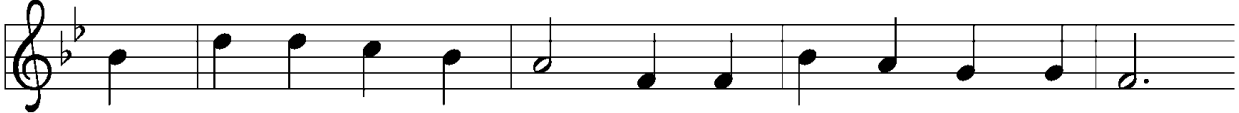
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Prayer of the Day

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

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.**

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.

¹⁴**But 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.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

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?” 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.

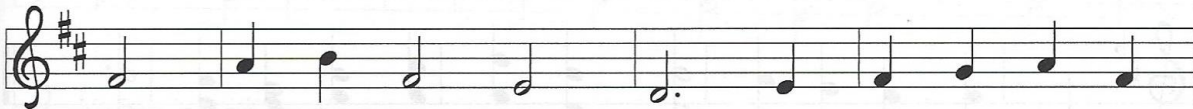
Reflection

As the Psalm today says, fear is certainly all around. This story of the suffering of Christ powerfully fits our time, and we can recognize ourselves in the fearful crowd, also in the betrayers and killers. But why does God in Christ enter into such agonies? To plant hope and life and God's very self deep in all human suffering, so that from now on there is no place of hurt and sorrow where Jesus Christ is not there first. To defeat all dread and death and sin, so that we might no longer live in fear. To plant the mind of Christ in us, so that we might turn to our neighbor in love.

Hymn of the Day

My Song Is Love Unknown

ELW # 343



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might
stow; the world that was his own would not its
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is
life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

Prayers of Intercession

On this Sunday before the Passion, we pray for all in need.

O God of majesty, mercy and might, hear and heed our fervent prayers: for the church around the world, that the faithful be nourished by your presence in the word, for bishops, pastors, and deacons, that they be strengthened for their tasks of ministry; for those who are providing the necessary technology for our worship at this time, . .

O holy God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

For the earth, that it be saved from pollution and disregard; for endangered animals, that they and their habitats be protected; for scientists, that their knowledge of your earth will guide our society's choices, . . .O creating God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

For peace throughout the world; for an end to terrorism and religious conflict; for our society that perpetuates the horrors of gun violence; for all elected leaders, that they serve the common good, . . .O mighty God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

For the countries hardest hit by the coronavirus; for the fearful and the sick and their families; for medical personnel and hospitals, . . .O compassionate God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

For all who are facing the criminal justice system; for those wrongly accused of crime; for those who are incarcerated, that they be kept safe, . . .O righteous God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

For those whose needs we know, for those whose needs are hidden; for all who are sick, for the hungry, for the dying; for those we name here, . . .O benevolent God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

And finally we pray for ourselves...O loving God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

With thanks for this Holy Week; with thanks for the support of our community of faith; with thanks for the saints who struggled through life and died in you; we praise your salvation now and unto our end. O eternal God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all this, trusting in your mercy, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who taught 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.



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854
 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen**

**Join us for Fellowship on Zoom following the postlude:
 596-621-1441 passcode 8675309**

OFFICE HOURS: (schedule may change, so always watch the bulletin, Facebook & website)

Lori's Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Pastor's Office Hours: Wednesday 1-4 p.m.

Worship Schedule for Holy Week:

Monday: Hymn Devotions with Dr. Smith

Tuesday: Morning & Evening Prayer at 9 a.m. & 9 p.m.

Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer at 7 p.m.

Thursday: Stations of the Cross, available starting at Noon

Friday: Good Friday Tenebrae, available starting at Noon

Reminder: April 1st is the Early Bird Deadline for Camp Sequanota. Early Bird pricing offers the lowest cost for camp and helps us help you provide an affordable week of outdoor ministry for kids or families. St. Matthew will pay for camp for you and a friend. If you know Sequanota will be in your summer plans, please register by April 1st for the lowest price.

Stewardship Committee is in need of members. The committee's main function is to help the congregation make use of their "Time & Talents". The committee only has three members. Please email the church at: stmatthewluth@aol.com or call 814-793-2413 to volunteer.

Serving God and Us

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist/Organist – Dr. Adam Smith/Mary Nelson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Bill Brown

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Local Needs"

Readings for the Week: Monday (commemoration of Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists) Psalm 36:5-11.

Tuesday 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. **Wednesday** Isaiah 50:4-9a. **Maundy Thursday** (commemoration of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945) John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

Good Friday (commemoration of Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557) John 18:1—19:42. **Resurrection of Our Lord / Vigil of Easter** Romans 6:3-11.

Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day (commemoration of Benedict the African, confessor, 1589) Acts 10:34-43 *or* Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *or* Acts 10:34-43; Mark 16:1-8 *or* John 20:1-18.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund had good earnings year in 2020 and as a result has \$5,437 for distribution in 2021. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson or committee members Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, Beth Garner or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 30, 2021. Funds will be distributed in June 2021. You can email Dave at: **dlehman1@atlanticbb.net**

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and music - support for the worship of St, Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

COVID VACCINE INFORMATION

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is making the COVID-19 vaccine available to adults over the age of 65 and people with certain health conditions. You can call the PA Department of Health hotline at 1-877-724-3258 for information about the vaccination process.

To get access to the vaccine, click on the following link:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>

www.vaccinatepa.org