April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Processional Gospel Matthew 21: 1-11 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist. Amen.
If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, have mercy on us.
We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly.
We have wandered from your resurrection life.
We have strayed from your love for all people.
Turn us back to you, O God.
Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.
All your sin is forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you. Amen.

BLESSING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
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**

The 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. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I 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. 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. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31: 9-16

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

**For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.**

I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

**I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.**

For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around!— as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

**But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.”**

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

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

SECOND READING

**Philippians 2: 5-11**

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind— slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

The Holy Gospel according to John the fourth chapter.

**Glory to You Oh Lord.**

The Passion of Jesus Christ

**Matthew 26: 14-27:66**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection of the texts/ No Sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY at the Name of Jesus  **ELW 416**

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
Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power (like Jonathan Edwards, whom we commemorate today). Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints (especially). Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God.  Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you. 
(the congregation is invited to share the peace with their neighbor)

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN  Go to Dark Gethsemane  ELW 416

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, + bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday (foot washing) Thursday, April 9 at 7:00pm
Good Friday (Service of Shadows) Friday, April 10 at 7:00pm
Easter Service Sunday, April 12 at 9:30am
(Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt Following the Service in the Fellowship Hall.)

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church connects people to God and one another.

We embody this mission through Word and Sacrament Worship, Music, Faith Formation, Service, and Authentic Community.