



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



PALM & PASSION SUNDAY

MARCH 24, 2024

Whenever you see an asterisk (*), you are invited to stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

PRELUDE: *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

(Roger C. Wilson)

GATHERING

ACCLAMATION

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

A: Hosanna in the highest!

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

A: Hosanna in the highest!

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

A: Hosanna in the highest!

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL – MARK 11:1-11

Jesus' triumphal entry, not on a warhorse or even (like Solomon's) on a donkey, but on a colt is humble and unprecedented, foreshadowing the humility and self-emptying which will be a theme of the rest of this morning's readings. In this passage, the word "Lord" could mean either God, or the true owner of the animal. And "Hosanna" is Hebrew for "Save now."

L: The holy gospel according to St Mark, the eleventh chapter. **A: 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.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: 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.

A: Amen.

P: Let us go forth in peace,

A: In the name of Christ. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

(ELW 344)



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,



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

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

A: Hosanna in the highest!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. **A: And also, with you.**

L: Let us pray, 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. **A: Amen.**

FIRST READING – ISAIAH 50:4-9A

This passage is one of four "servant songs" in this part of the book of Isaiah, and it is not exactly clear in any of them if the singer is identified with the prophet, the king, or Israel as a whole. Since the context of this passage is the announcement of the return of the Israelites from exile in Babylon, if the "I" in this passage is the author, it may be that not everyone welcomed this news, and that he suffered at the hands of those who preferred staying in exile and bondage to the dangers of home-coming and rebuilding.

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?

R: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31: 9-17

This psalm could be sung by the servant in the First Reading, but Christians have seen it, like Psalm 22, as the cry of the suffering Christ.



Be mer- ci- ful to me, O LORD, for
Be - cause of all my en - e - mies, my
But I will trust in You, O LORD; I



I am in dis - tress and grief. My
neigh - bors pour con - tempt on me; I
say, "You are my God in - deed." My



soul and bo - dy fill with grief; my
am a dread e'en to my friends - when
times are in Your hands for sure; de -



eyes with sor - row do grow weak. My
they see me, they turn and flee. I
liv - er me from en - e - mies. Let



life's con - sumed by ang - uish and my
am for - got - ten as though dead; I'm
Your face shine up - on Your child; in



years by groans as You I seek. My
like old brok - en pot - er - y. I
Your un - fail - ing love, save me; And

strength fails from af - flic - tion and my
hear their slan - der; I'm in dread; for
let me not be put to shame, for

ver - y bones grow sick and weak.
they con - spire and plot 'gainst me.
I have cried out, LORD, to Thee.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 5:5-10

In almost all of his letters, Paul urges his hearers to support each other rather than to compete or to look out primarily for themselves. Here he quotes the earlier Christian hymn we have, to emphasize that the advice he gives is, in fact, the model of Jesus.

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.

R: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

(ELW 346)



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring
pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.
Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912–1993
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HOMILY

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO: MARK (14:1--15:47)

See inserted booklet.

- You're invited to speak the **bolded type** with the congregation.
- Please *stand* (as you are able) right after the the narrator says, "Then they led him out to crucify him," which is the end of Mark 15:20.

Return the booklets after the service.

Mark's description of the Passion of Christ is the shortest and most stark of the Gospel writers'. At first glance, it seems like defeat, culminating his cry of abandonment. But a closer hearing reveals the opponents of Christ being manipulated into doing exactly what he had foretold and what was required. At the death of Jesus, the Roman who headed the squad charged with crucifying him echoes the opening of Mark's Gospel, identifying Jesus as "Son of God."

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** "Were You There"

(ELW 353)



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Refrain



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual

***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

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.

L: 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.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: 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. Consecrated

A: Your mercy is great.

L: 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.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: 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.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Give energy and joy to all pastors, deacons, worship leaders, musicians, and sacristans especially Pastor Paul, Jim, Michelle, Delorse, Ann, and Karen. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: 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 the greater Church commemorates today as well as the members of our congregation who have gone before us, like Mabel Witherite. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

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

*PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also, with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING

Offerings can be made online at stpaulpgm.org/give, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless" (David Cherwien)

***OFFERTORY:** "Create in Me a Clean Heart" (ELW 188)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **A: Amen.**

L: The table is now set with communion elements that were consecrated at last Sunday's service for our reception today.

***HOLY COMMUNION**

***DECLARATION OF PRECONSCRATION**

This morning, I, Art Reede, as an authorized lay worship leader in the Allegheny Synod, ELCA, will distribute the gifts of bread and wine set apart at our last Sunday gathering because an ordained pastor is not available to preside at our worship today. This form of distribution under special circumstances is being used **only** during this time of Pastor Paul's illness and in consideration of the great solemnity of this Great and Holy Week.

*** DIALOGUE**

L: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE TO THE REMEMBRANCE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to the LORD, the almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. The LORD gathers God's people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, we praise the name of the Holy One in one accord with all the choirs of angels, the church on earth, and the hosts of heaven.

***REMEMBERING THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

When our congregation gathered for worship last Sunday,
we heard again the story of God's mighty acts
and of the love shown to us in
Jesus' life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension,
and we shared in the holy meal of the Lord's Supper.

Now, I bring to you this same word of life,
and this same bread and cup of blessing,
so that we may share in these gifts
and be strengthened in communion
with all the people of God
for our observance of this Great and Holy Week.

Gathered at the Lord's Table,
we celebrated with thanksgiving that
"in the night in which our Lord Jesus was handed over,
he 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.'"
This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and this meal is shared
with the assurance of our Lord's presence
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
This bread and cup, shared in the gathering of our faith,
are now given here for you.

*LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

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

*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.

COMMUNION

L: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN: "Go to Dark Gethsemane

(ELW 347)



- 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

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: The body and blood of our risen Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you, body, mind, and soul, now and unto eternal life. **A: Amen**

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

*BLESSING

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. In the name of the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

(ELW 351)



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weigh'd down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share your bread. **A: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

(Michael Burkhardt)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR THIS WEEK!!

March 28: Commandment Thursday (Maundy Thursday) 7PM

March 29: God's Friday (Good Friday) 7PM

March 30: The Great Vigil (Easter Eve) 7PM

March 31: Resurrection of our Lord/Pascha (Easter)

Sunrise Service: Jo Hays Vista, 6:30AM

Regular Service: 10AM

YOU'RE INVITED TO TELL THE ELCA WHAT YOU THINK OF IT.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was officially formed on January 1, 1988. It is now over 36 years since its formation and the world has changed in dramatic ways, but the core of our constitutional structures hasn't.

At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, the highest governing authority of the ELCA, a memorial was passed to create a commission to explore if we should have a reconstituting convention. From what has been disclosed by committee members, it is highly likely that this will happen and be recommended to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

The commission will be presenting their report, and to help them write it they want to hear from members like yourself. Are there ways the ELCA has confused, frustrated, or perplexed you? Now is the time to make that known!

Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/CRLC-elca-Survey> to give your thoughts and opinions.

RELATEDLY: If you would like to try to go the Phoenix, Arizona in 2025 to be part of the Churchwide Assembly, you can fill out this form to run for the chance:

<http://tinyurl.com/8c-2024-Nominations>



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 24

Procession with Palms: Mark 11:1-11 or
John 12:12-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16 (5)
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1 — 15:47 or
Mark 15:1-39[40-47]

Monday, March 25

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11 (7)
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 26

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14 (6)
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Wednesday, March 27

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70 (1)
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Thursday, March 28

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (13)
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, March 29

Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22 (1)
Hebrews 10:16-25 or
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Saturday, March 30

First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Response: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 (1)
Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13
Psalm 46 (7)
Genesis 22:1-18
Psalm 16 (11)



SERVING TODAY

Assisting Minister.....Art Reede
Musician..... Jim Rearick
Sacristan.....Delorse Homan
Reader.....Ann Reede

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

MISSION

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity,
and serve community.

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.'– Acts 9:3,15

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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