



Lutheran Church of the Messiah
407 Nassau Street, Princeton, N.J.



Drawing by Jon Hlafter

The Lutheran Church of the Messiah

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Martin K. Erhardt, *Pastor*

Janice Hofreiter, *Organist*

Paul C. Hofreiter, *Choir Director*

John Mark Goerss, D. Min., *Pastor Emeritus*

Palm Sunday (Palmarum)

March 24, 2024

Prayer upon entering: Almighty God, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take our flesh upon him and to suffer death on the cross. Grant that we may share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Guests, welcome! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Erhardt, sign our guest book next to the main doors, and join us downstairs for fellowship following the service. Bibles are available on a shelf in the back of the nave. Kneelers and large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join us here at Messiah.

Worship begins with the prelude and continues through the postlude. Once the prelude begins, please refrain from conversation. We use two hymnals: the green *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW) and the blue paperback *With One Voice* (wov). Hymn numbers below 600 are generally in LBW; above 600, in wov. The pastor's parts (spoken and sung) are designated "P:." Parts spoken or sung by the congregation are italicized, prefaced by "C:."

Holy Communion: Lutheran Christians celebrate a divine service of Word and sacrament in which God comes to us both in his proclaimed Word and in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We invite to commune at the Lord's table all baptized Christians who with contrite hearts trust God's word of forgiveness for their sins, acknowledge the presence of Jesus Christ both in the communion elements and in this gathered body of believers, and seek, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to follow Jesus and walk in newness of life. If this doesn't describe you, we invite you to come to the altar rail to receive a blessing instead of the communion elements. Indicate this by folding your arms across your chest at the rail. All are invited to bring their children forward for a blessing.

Individual cups are available in addition to the chalice (the common cup). The tray with individual cups includes wine on the outer edge and non-alcoholic grape juice in the center. Gluten-free wafers are also available upon request from the bread server at the communion rail. All are invited to bring their children forward for a blessing.

Families with young children: Welcome! We have children's activity backpacks in the back of the church for use during the service, as well as an unstaffed nursery on the stage downstairs. Feel free to ask an usher for help locating them. The stairs are at the back of the sanctuary.

The Procession with Palms

Children, choir, acolyte, and pastor gather in the back of the sanctuary for the procession.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen*

P: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: *Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Let us pray.

O God of our salvation, help us to enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby You have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: *Amen*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

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 Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of Kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path.

(continued on the next page)

We ask that you bless these branches ☩ and those who bear them. Grant that we may ever hail Jesus as our Lord and King and follow him in faith and trust: through him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen*

Please remain standing for the Gospel Lesson, printed on the back cover of this service folder.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 11th chapter.

C (*spoken loudly*): *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel Lesson

Mark 11:1-11

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C (*spoken loudly*): *Praise to you, O Christ.*

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C (*spoken loudly*): *In the name of the Lord.*

Please stand to sing and wave palms during the hymn as the children, choir, acolyte, and pastor process to the chancel.

Processional Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

LBW 108

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, "I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,"

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel or sit for silent reflection and confession.

P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal glory. Resting in Christ's righteousness and not on your own confession, receive God's free and full forgiveness, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *C: Amen*

Please stand as you are able.

Apostolic Greeting

2 Corinthians 13:14

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: *And also with you.*

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key of one flat (B-flat). The first system contains the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -". The second system contains the lyrics "on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." The music consists of chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: *Sacrificing and saving God, open our hearts to receive your Christ, our king who comes humbly, on a borrowed colt. Open our lips to declare your praise and to confess that Jesus is Lord. As we follow him to the cross this week, open our eyes to see, and our minds to focus on, this central act in your drama of salvation. Amen*

Please be seated for the scripture readings, printed on the last two pages of this service folder.

First Lesson

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118:19-29

p. 273

Second Lesson

Philippians 2:5–11

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates!

Music: Paul W. Hofreiter

Text from Psalm 24: 7-10

Lift up your heads, O ye gates!
Be lifted up ye everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is the King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates!
Be lifted up ye everlasting doors,
And the King of glory shall come in!

Who is the King of glory?
The Lord of Hosts,
He is the King of glory!

Children's Sermon

Sermon What Do You Think You're Doing with that Colt?

Hymn of the Day

At the Name of Jesus

LBW 179

Creed (Apostles') *Spoken in unison*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

The Prayers of the People

P: Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the body of Christ throughout the world and for those known to us in need of prayer.

After each prayer or petition,

P: Create in us a clean heart, O God,

C: *and renew a right spirit within us.*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: *Amen*

The Sharing of the Peace


P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

Please exchange a greeting of peace with your neighbors, then be seated.

Gathering of Offerings

As the offering is brought forward, please stand and sing vv. 10–12 of Psalm 51, a psalm of penitence (next page):

 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 Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

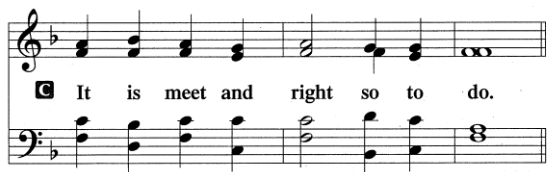
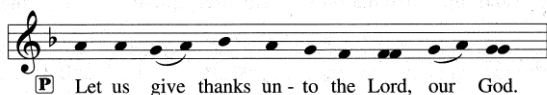
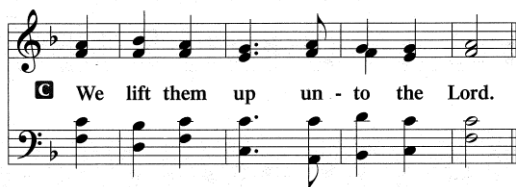
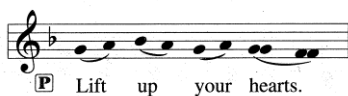
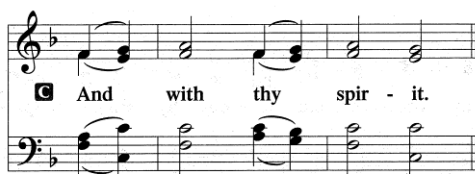
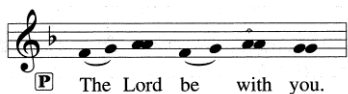
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

P: Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

C: *O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

The Great Thanksgiving



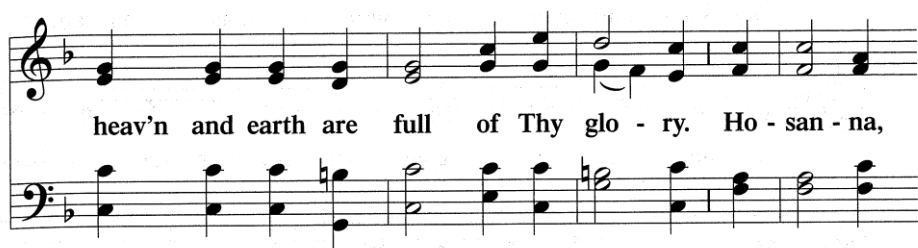
Meet means fitting, proper.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God: Who on the tree of the cross didst give salvation unto mankind that, whence death arose, thence Life also might rise again; and that he who by a tree once overcame might likewise by a tree be overcome, through Christ, our Lord; through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

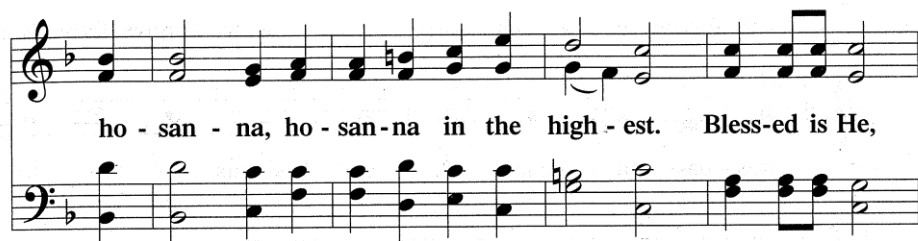
Sanctus



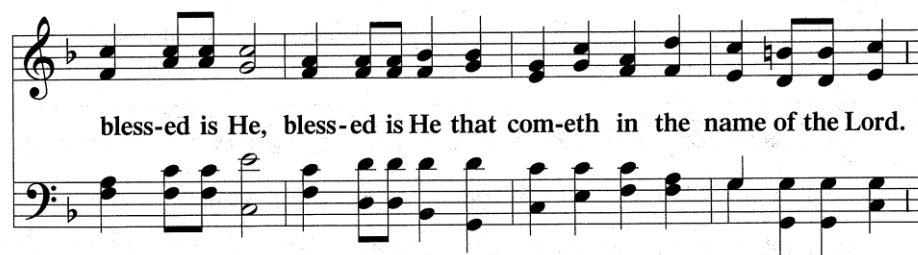
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



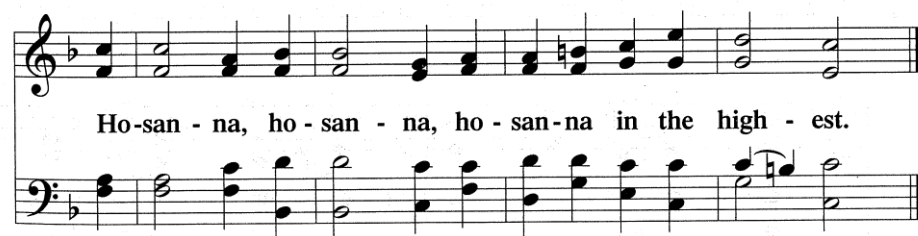
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Sabaoth (SAH-bay-oath) is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts."
Hosanna is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now."

The Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The 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

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

This system consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff has a common time signature. The lyrics 'O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the' are written below the treble staff. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes in the treble and chords in the bass.

world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

This system continues the melody. The treble staff has a key signature change to F major (two sharps). The lyrics 'world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that' are written below the treble staff. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

This system continues the melody. The treble staff has a key signature change to D major (two sharps). The lyrics 'tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.' are written below the treble staff. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

This system continues the melody. The treble staff has a key signature change to B major (three sharps). The lyrics 'O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the' are written below the treble staff. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

This system concludes the piece. The treble staff has a key signature change to G major (one sharp). The lyrics 'world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.' are written below the treble staff. The music ends with a final chord in the treble and a sustained bass line.

Once the pastor says, “Welcome to the table of the Lord,” kneel or sit. Because Communion is important, please read and follow our Communion policy, printed on p. 2 of this service folder. If you are not communing, you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, but feel no pressure to do so. If you do come forward for a blessing (only), indicate this by folding your arms across your chest when you kneel at the altar rail. When the pastor dismisses you, please return to your seat by the center aisle. If you would like Communion brought to your seat, please raise your hand to alert the pastor.

Communion Hymn

Glory Be to Jesus

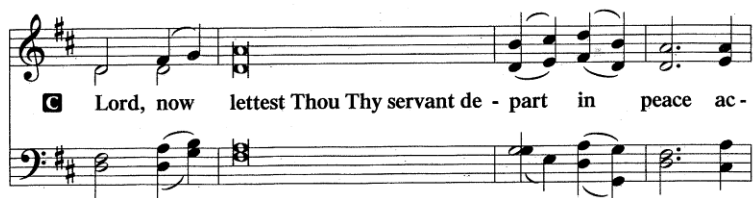
LBW 95

After all have returned to their places, the pastor says: (please stand)

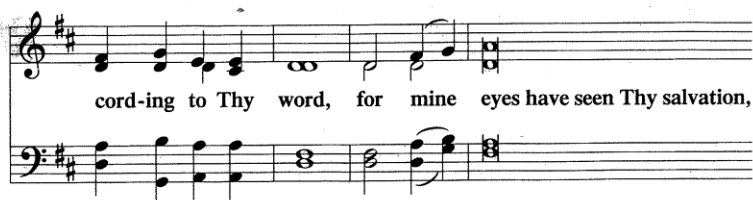
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen

Nunc Dimittis

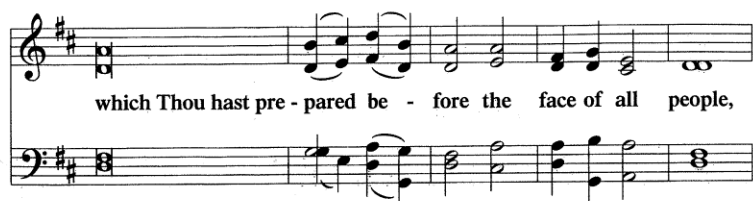
Luke 2:29-32



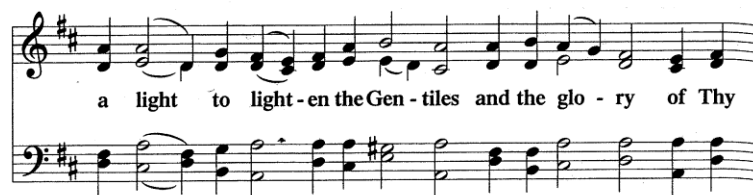
C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



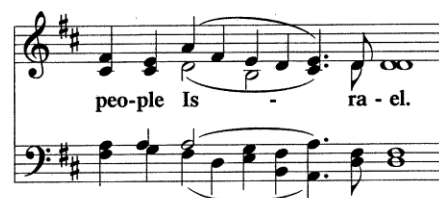
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

LSB 441

1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the
 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel
 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Thy last and
 5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy tri - umphs
 ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and
 fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on His
 pomp ride on to die. Bow Thy meek head to

sue Thy road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - d'ring eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 sap - phire throne A - waits His own a - noint - ed Son.
 mor - tal pain, Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1794–1868, alt.

Tune: *Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien*, Hamburg, 1690, alt.;
 setting: William H. Monk, 1823–89, alt.

WINCHESTER NEW
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Closing

Isaiah 40:28b - 31

P: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

C: *He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable.*

P: He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

C: *Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the young shall fall exhausted;*

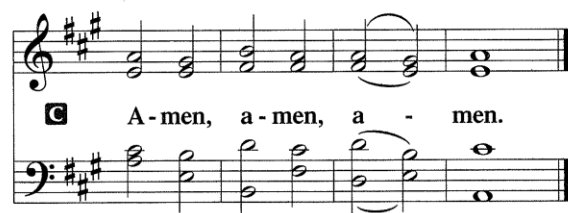
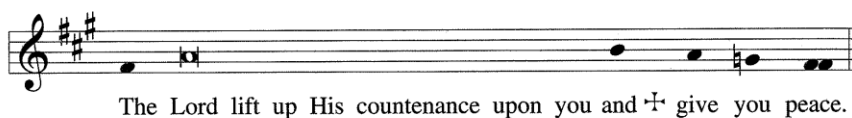
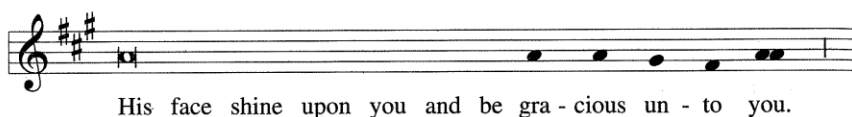
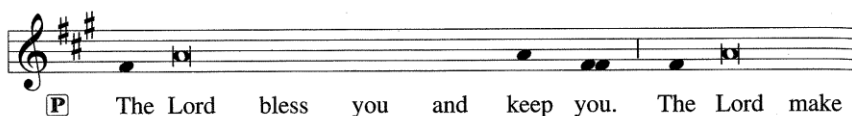
P: But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;

C: *They shall mount up with wings like eagles;*

P: They shall run and not be weary;

C: *They shall walk and not faint.*

Benediction



Announcements

P: Go in peace, for Christ, our servant king, goes before us.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

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Thank you to today's Temple Servants

Acolyte	Charles Loughery
Reader	Charles Loughery
Ushers	Doris Schubert-Gerwers and Stephen Stys
Fellowship Host	Louise Cooper
Chancel	Laura Bennett
Offering Counter	Xuxu Song
Livestream	Mark von Bargaen

Thank you to Charles German for serving as our organist this morning, whose prelude and postlude selections are in honor of Johann Sebastian Bach's 339th birthday on March 21. **Thank you to Dennis Ionata** for accompanying the prelude and choir anthem on trumpet.

This coming week

Wed 7:30 PM Choir

* No soup & salad or Lenten Evening Prayer on Wednesday, March 27 *

Thu 8:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service of Word and Sacrament

Fri 8:00 PM Tenebrae (Good Friday service)

Sun 9:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt (Adult Forum will not meet)

Sun **10:00 (not 10:30) AM** Festival Service of Word and Sacrament

Next Sunday (Easter Sunday)

Acts 10:34-43 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • 1 Corinthians 15:1-1 • Mark 16:1-8

Opening Hymn: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (LBW 151)

Hymn: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain (LBW 132)

Hymn of the Day: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done (LBW 135)

Communion Hymns: Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands (LBW 134)

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (LBW 210)

Closing Hymn: Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (WOV 672)

Adult Forum will not meet on Easter Sunday (March 31). Please join us on April 7 and following Sundays at 9am in the parish building conference room.

Thank you to those who generously volunteered to host this year's Lenten soup & salad suppers, which have now concluded:

Supper Hosts

February 21: Pat Hlafter & Carolyn Gishlick

February 28: Louise Cooper & Miranda Hempel

March 6: Esther Fischer & John Fischer

March 13: Peter Giller & Marion Zukas

March 20: Debbie Baer

Schedule of Services for Passion Week and Easter Sunday:

Palm Sunday (March 24): 10:30am Service of Word and Sacrament

No Lenten Evening Prayer on Wednesday, March 27.

Maundy Thursday (March 28): 8pm Service of Word and Sacrament

Good Friday (March 29): 8pm Tenebrae

Easter Sunday (March 31): 10:00am (not 10:30): Festival Service of Word and Sacrament

On Easter Sunday, March 31, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 9AM.

The fun starts at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall, with crafts, gift baskets, and hat decorating as well as tasty breakfast refreshments. Then it's time for the egg hunt, with hundreds of chocolate and candy-filled eggs hidden around Messiah's grounds for the children to find. All are welcome to attend - please invite your friends and family to come for this free, fun event!

Easter Flowers: Members of Messiah's chancel guild are planning a beautiful flower arrangement for Easter Sunday. Contributions toward the flowers are welcome and may be made in memory or in honor of someone you name. Contributions may be put in the offering plate or mailed to the church and should be clearly designated as follows: "For Easter flowers, given by _____ in honor (or in loving memory) of _____." Please write clearly so we spell the names correctly in the Easter bulletin. To ensure inclusion in the Easter bulletin, contributions need to be received by Maundy Thursday (March 28). Donations exceeding the cost of the flowers will be used for general operating expenses.

New Date/Time for Spring Work Day: Saturday, April 27, 10am – 1:30pm (rescheduled to avoid a conflict with John Bremer's 4/6 memorial service) Come when you can and leave when you must. We'll have plenty of work to go around for people of all ages and abilities. Gardening volunteers, please bring gloves and tools. It's fun, lunch is provided and your help is greatly appreciated!

Curious about the Latin on the dateline on the first page of the service folder? Latin was the primary liturgical language of Western Christianity until quite recently, and is still used today. Lutherans and other Christians in the Western tradition often begin Sunday worship services with an "introit" (entrance) Bible verse, usually from a psalm. Sundays are often named for the first word of the introit, but Palm Sunday is an exception. Today's word is "Palmarum", which doesn't come from an introit but reflects the theme of the day, meaning "of palms."

Voters Meeting: Sunday, May 12, at 12:15 PM

Messiah members, please plan to attend this important meeting, at which we will elect church officers to serve in the following positions in the coming year: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Social Ministry. Several of the incumbents are willing to continue to serve, but Messiah members may nominate a candidate to stand for any elected office described in Messiah's constitution in a letter or email signed by two voting members of the congregation. Each nomination must be accompanied by a letter or email of acceptance by the nominee. **Nominations should be submitted by Sunday, April 21**, via mail or email to the church (use the addresses on p. 1 of this bulletin), via email to the Secretary of the congregation, Miranda Hempel, or by giving the nomination(s) to Miranda in person. If you have questions, contact Miranda or another current Executive Board member.

Available on the back pew:

- (1) March/April 2024 edition of the *Messiah Messenger*
- (2) Portals of Prayer devotion booklets (April-June)
- (3) February - May 2024 Temple Servant schedule

Prayer Corner

We remember in our prayers:

- Mario Kurylak (father of Dan Baer, undergoing heart surgery), Riley Samuel Mihulka, (born March 20 to Pastor Erhardt's cousin Abbie and her husband Sam – for successful heart surgery for Riley and calm nerves for his parents), Lorna-Jane Bremer and her family (grieving the death of her husband John), John Baer (brother of Debbie Baer, recuperating and adjusting to life with a cardiac stent), Barbara Cooper Brennan (friend of Barbara Rutherford, living with heart problems and cancer), Janice Hofreiter (for relief from migraine headaches and healing), Robert Coyner (thanking God for healing from the flu and pneumonia), Karin Bergesen (for relief from back pain and recovery following a recent fall), Bernice Singh (for healing), Micha Livne (friend of the Gishlicks who is ill), Julia Majsztrik (for continued recovery from surgery and healthy growth, Carole Bleicher (friend of Carolyn Gishlick) and her sons-in-law Bob Atwood (diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer) and Mike Macceroni (preparing for heart surgery), Ted Alslev (son of Elda Alslev, to overcome his addiction to smoking), Mary Pickens (friend of Jon and Pat Hlafter, undergoing an experimental medical treatment), Sue Parisi (friend of Pat Hlafter, being treated for breast cancer), Peter Schulze (son of Lydia and Carl Schulze, friends of Miranda Hempel, Brad Bergmann, and Jenny Mills – for comfort, strength, and healing
- The people of Ukraine, Israel, and the Gaza Strip

Prayer requests are generally printed in the Prayer Corner and included in the Sunday intercessory prayers for 4 weeks. If you would like us to keep someone there longer, we are happy to do that. Please call the church office or email lcmprinceton@gmail.com to let Pastor Erhardt know.

PALM SUNDAY
March 24, 2024

Year B, Revised Common Lectionary

First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, 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 in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to 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.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and 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. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this: ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’ ” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Then 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.

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