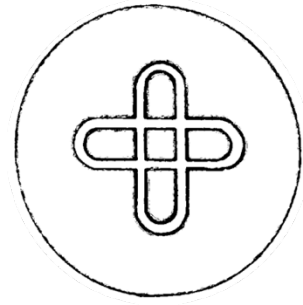


St Mark Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion



Welcome to this divine service of worship!

Plain font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by worship leaders.

Bold font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by the congregation.

The obelisk (†) invites the congregation to stand as it is able.

The double obelisk (‡) invites the congregation to kneel or sit as it is able.

March 24, 2024: Palm and Passion Sunday

9:00 & 11:00am

Choral Prelude: *Make Way for the King*

Alex Gartner

Preparation for Worship

Redeeming God, I do not know what lies ahead. I asked for strength and patience for myself, my family, and all who love and support me as we figure out what the future looks like. Gracious God, I know that you were always with me. Help me to feel your presence, especially at this time. I asked this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

†Gospel for the Palms: **John 12:12-16** — *children gather in the chancel*

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

(Five days before the Passover) the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

†Blessing for the Palms — *we lift our palms to praise our Messiah*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

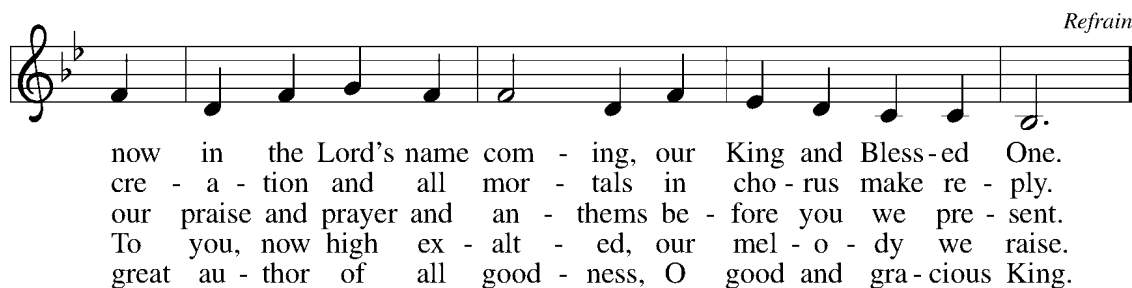
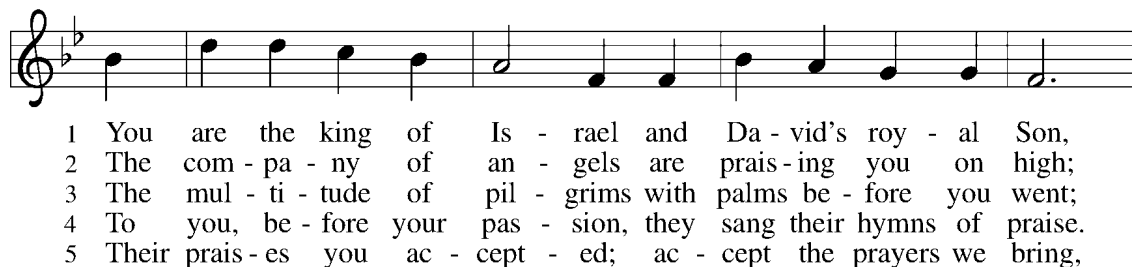
We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ, who entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and all who hold them to honor you. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in 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.**

Let us welcome in peace our Lord and Lifeguard, **in the name of Christ. Amen!**

†Hymn: *All Glory Laud and Honor*

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner



†Prayer of the Day

Triumphant God, who enters into our lives as Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey: Guide us so that our worship may be focused on you and our lives might seek the eternal peace and justice you desire. As we hear the story of Jesus' betrayal, trial, and death, guide us to draw closer to you and to live in ways that bring about peace and justice in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Reading: *Isaiah 50:6-9a*

A reading from Isaiah:

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?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: *Be Gracious, Lord, To Me* (Psalm 31:9-16)

Text/Tune: HASKIN, JSN



1. Be grac-ious, Lord, to me for I am in dis - tress.
2. I'm bull - ied by my foes; my life would scare a friend;
3. But you, O Lord, I trust. You are my God a - lone.



My eyes and soul and bo - dy close in grief and lone - li - ness.
and, that they've nev - er known me, my ac - quaint - an - ces pre - tend.
My times are in your hand: de - fend me at the judg - ment throne.



As sor - rows span my life, my years, but sighs they raise.
The world's for - got - ten me like bro - ken jars of clay;
"Lord Je - sus, think on me and purge a - way my sin."



My bones are weak, my strength is lost in mis - er - y, mal - aise.
I hear the whisp - ered rum - ors of the ev - il things they say.
Lord, shine on me with stead - fast love and save my life there - in.

Reading: *Philippians 2:5-11*

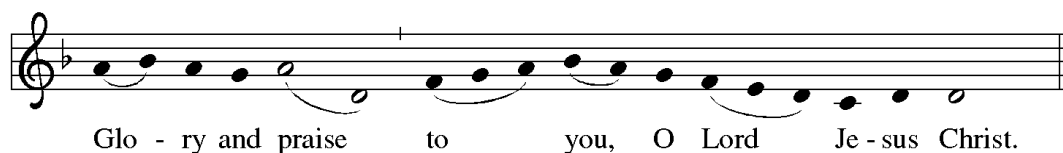
A reading from the Epistle to the Philippians:

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

†Gospel Acclamation



Cantor: Christ 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 ev'ry name. (*Philippians 2:8-9*)

Gospel: *St Mark 14:1-15:47* — *please see inserted gospel booklet*

The passion of the Christ, according to St Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Late in the gospel reading, the congregation stands to honor Jesus' passion:

...When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"...

The passion of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

God's children, even Judas was a friend
of Jesus — though it's easy to pretend
that, focused on his worst mistake,
his friendship with the Christ was fake:
still broken friendship's all Christ's cross will mend.

+ + +

*Mark 14:51-52 — A certain young man was following Jesus, wearing nothing but a linen cloth.
They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.*

That certain youth — with nothing left to hide
his body, clothe his fear of being caught —
is now exposed. Where Christ is. Mortified

am I? But to the sight of dewey-eyed
disciples of this captured Christ I brought
that certain youth with nothing left to hide

God's garden's naked fear, which — too — denied
the Christ a decent cover. What sin has sought
is now exposed. Where Christ is — mortified

messiah, shackled savior — so my pride
to be self-righteous is denied. I bought
that certain youth. With nothing left to hide,

I know I'm Judas. I may as well confide
my own most naked fear: I'm (a lot
is now exposed where Christ is!) mortified

you'll hate me for my maker's homicide
forever, but I never ever thought
that certain youth with nothing left to hide
is now exposed where Christ is mortified.

†Hymn: ***My Song Is Love Unknown*** (stanzas 1-3)

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683

Tune: RHOSYMEDRE, JD Edwards, 1806-1885



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.

‡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.

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. **Your mercy is great.**

Renew your good creation. Protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of those who tend forests, fields, gardens or waters. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and needful plants. Let our trees — and all earthly things — be rooted for life, not fashioned as instruments of death. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Establish peace and justice among the nations. Teach wisdom and mercy to all with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring hope to souls who feel forsaken or forgotten. Defend refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite separated families. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. Be gentle with those we name aloud on our lips or silently in our hearts, including.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give energy and joy to our pastor, congregational office, worship leaders and musicians. Bless us with faith to grow in baptismal trust. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

†Peace and Offering

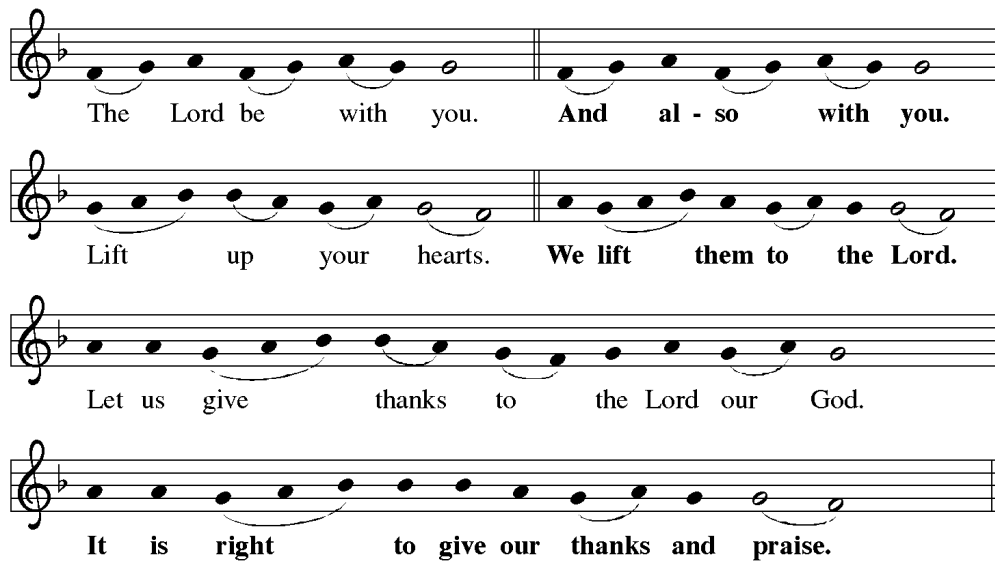
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Our offering is given for the mission of the church, and caring for those in need. Offerings may be shared in the plates at the doors of the sanctuary or online by using this QR code with your smart device. As partners in ministry, we thank God for our shared commitment!

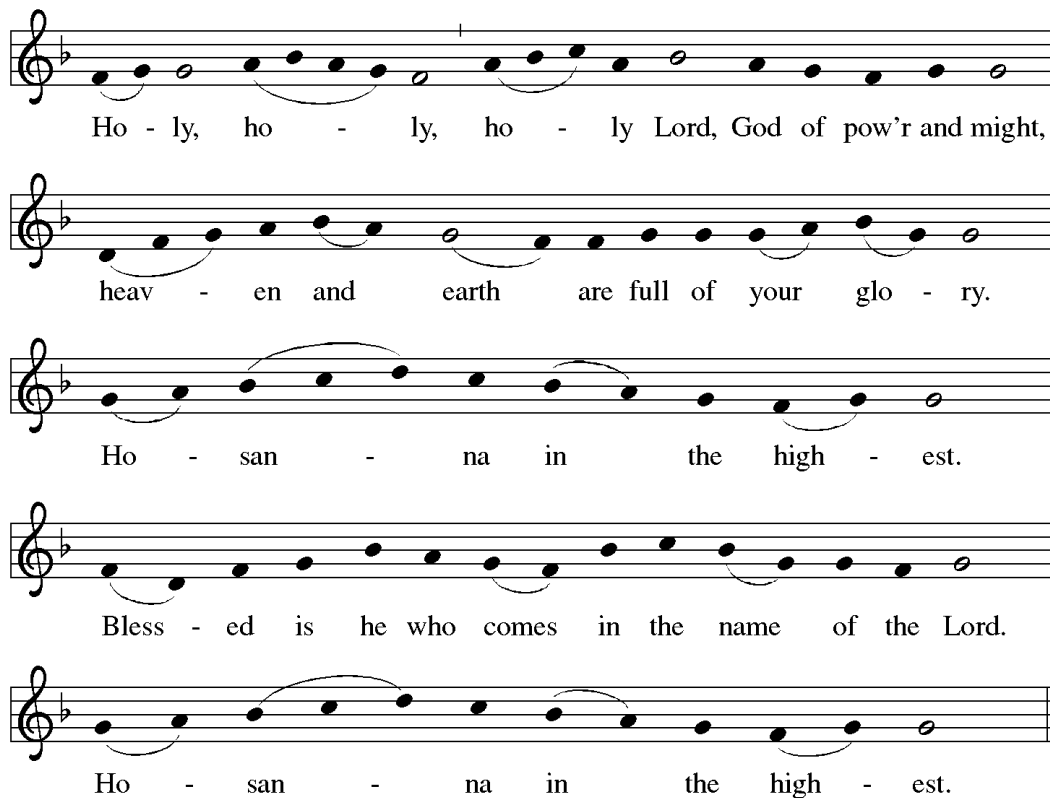


God of creation, **it can be hard to be grateful for meals in prison. I miss foods from my family, foods that remind me of good times, foods that delight me. Even with only bread and a cup, make me mindful of those whose tables are empty, of those who grow our food, and of the ways we depend upon the resources of the land. Amen.**

†Great Thanksgiving (*Dialogue, Preface, Sanctus, Eucharistic and Lord's Prayers*)



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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:



God, creator of communion, companion in confinement:
you are with us as a parent to face your child's arrest,
you are with us as a cellmate to share our chains,
you are with us as a breath of freedom to release a breath we hold in fear.
That you are with us here, for always being God with us, we thank you.

Just before he was arrested, 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 testament in my blood, shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Jesus' freedom & confinement, life & death, resurrection & ascension,
we await the liberation of our lives in the rising of his gracious justice & righteous peace.
Set free your Holy Spirit on us and on this simple bread and cup,
that we may freely embrace Jesus' body and blood in, with and under this communion.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ — incarcerated once and ever exonerated —
you are exalted, Our Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit:
One God, with glory and honor in your Holy Church, both now and forever.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

†Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

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. A - men.

Communion — *please see back cover for a note on receiving Holy Communion.*

Communion Music: (9:00am) *Jesus, Have Mercy*
(11:00am) *Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed*

Patrick Liebergen
arranged by Mazztenta

†Post Communion Blessing, Prayer & Benediction

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer
and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**Come, O peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
and guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

Good and gracious God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit —
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

†Hymn: *My Song Is Love Unknown* (stanzas 4-7)

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683

Tune: RHOSYMEDRE, JD Edwards, 1806-1885



4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

6 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.

7 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!

Dismissal — from *Ephesians 4:1-3*

Lead a life in balance with the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Note on Receiving Holy Communion

Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices eucharistic hospitality. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Christ's body and blood; all people are welcomed to receive God's blessing in the love and life of Jesus for you today and always.

We share Christ's body and blood in bread and wine. After washing hands with rubbing alcohol, the pastor will dip the host into the cup and offer the bread and wine together; to receive the host without wine, please inform the pastor with words or by placing a hand on your chest. Truly Christ is fully present in each element separately. Christ is for you.

Communicants will come forward to the feast in continuous procession.

PJ's reflection on the Gospel of the Palms	PJ's reflection on the Passion Gospel
<p>I heard the clatter of the coming king unmuffled by the balmy, palmy day and its hosannas: it's our people's way to rally for a hero. So we bring the streets our tickertape parade and sing in praise of politics we hope will pay us dividends. No coat or leaf we lay on dust will damp the hoofs that, galloping in our direction, soon deliver Christ— <i>who sailed the sea of Galilee on yachts!</i> <i>whose polo pony scores the city's goal!</i> But when I see my king? I'd overpriced him: more fishing skiffs than yachts, and not so much a pony as a donkey's foal.</p>	<p>That now you wonder if my friend "is dead already" seems the oddest detail to investigate when I have come and said— no, pled fresh grief: "Now let me bury who was crucified. My friend has died." It's true. And yet, if you or others wonder, let the media you trust break news for you: my friend you crucified has died. You'll get the credit you deserve. And, if you regret how expeditiously you broke the breath and heartbeat of a human, don't forget: <i>your choice to put my friend — my God! — to death</i> <i>was, Pilate, one you didn't have to make.</i> Now let me take the body for Christ's sake.</p>

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