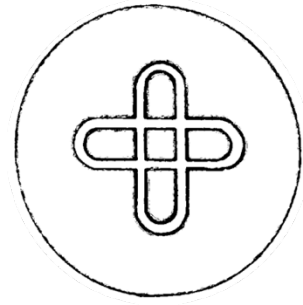


St Mark Lutheran Church

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.

April 13, 2025: Palm and Passion Sunday

9:00 & 11:00am

Preparation for Worship — *children join in procession with the choir*

Wave Your Branches

T. Pavlechko

Wave your branches, wave them high, Jesus Christ is riding by.

*Wave your branches, shout and sing
loud hosannas to your King.*

†Gospel for the Palms: *Luke 19:28-40* —

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

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, **“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”**

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

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

Wave Your Branches (reprise)

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

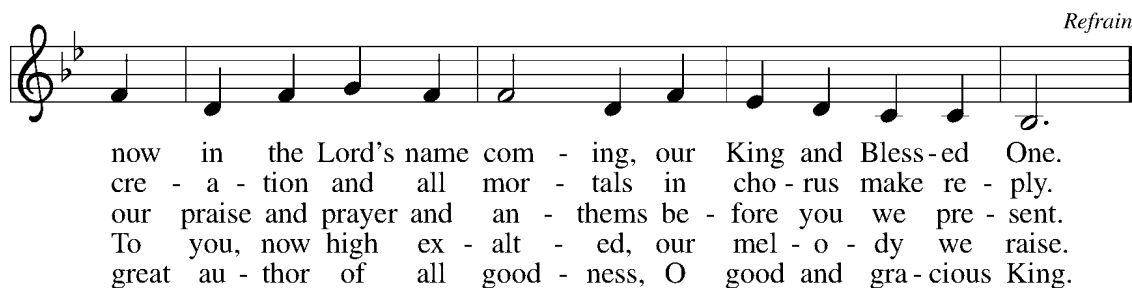
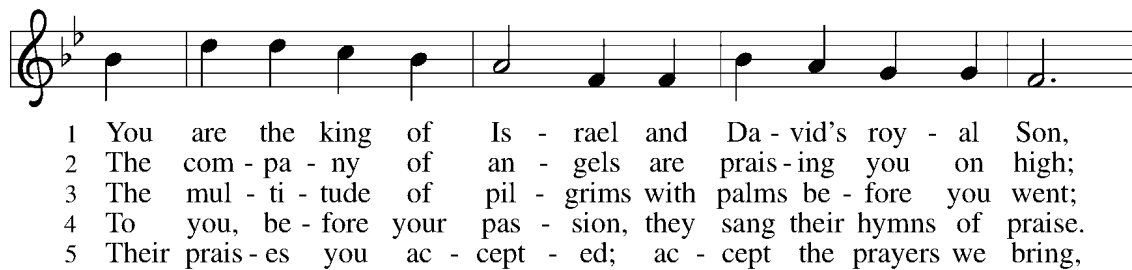
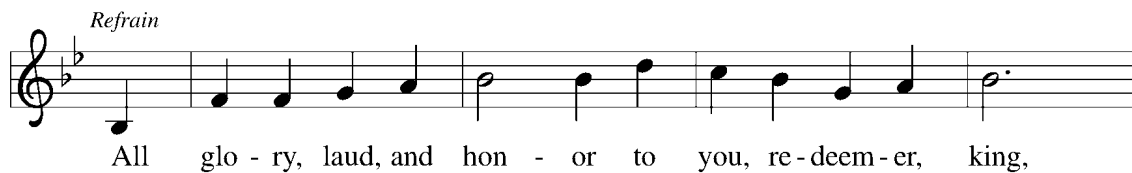
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

†**Hymn: All Glory Laud and Honor**

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchoir Teschner



†Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Reading: *Isaiah 50:5-9a*

A reading from Isaiah:

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?

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*

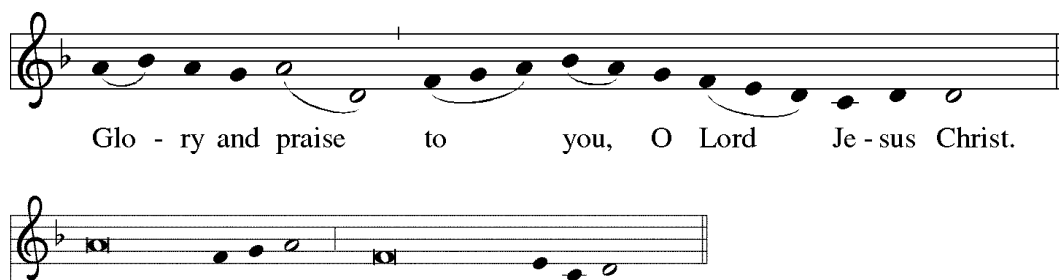
A reading from the Epistle to the Philippians:

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.

†Lenten Acclamation



**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.**

Gospel: *Luke 22:14—23:56* — *please see inserted gospel booklet*

The passion of the Christ, according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

... It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." ...

The passion of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Meditation for Holy Week

Pastor Joel Neübauer

†Hymn: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Tune: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

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-raigned;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,

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.

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.

†from the *Athanasian Creed*

This is the true faith that we believe and confess:

that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and human.

As the rational soul and body are one person,

so the one Christ is God and human,

who suffered death for our salvation;

who descended into hell

and rose again from the dead;

who ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

who will come again to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people shall rise bodily

to give an account of their own deeds. Amen.

‡Prayers of Intercession

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for the life of faith. Halt those who twist faith to dominate others or to reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Grant perseverance to all who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering and be gentle with all whom we remember aloud on our lips and silently in our hearts, including.... God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: bishops, pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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!



Merciful Maker, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with a final double bar line.

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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a fermata over the word 'ly'. The second staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third, fourth, and fifth staves end with a final double bar line.

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 and confinement, life and death, resurrection and ascension,
we await the liberation of our lives in the rising of his gracious justice and righteous peace.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

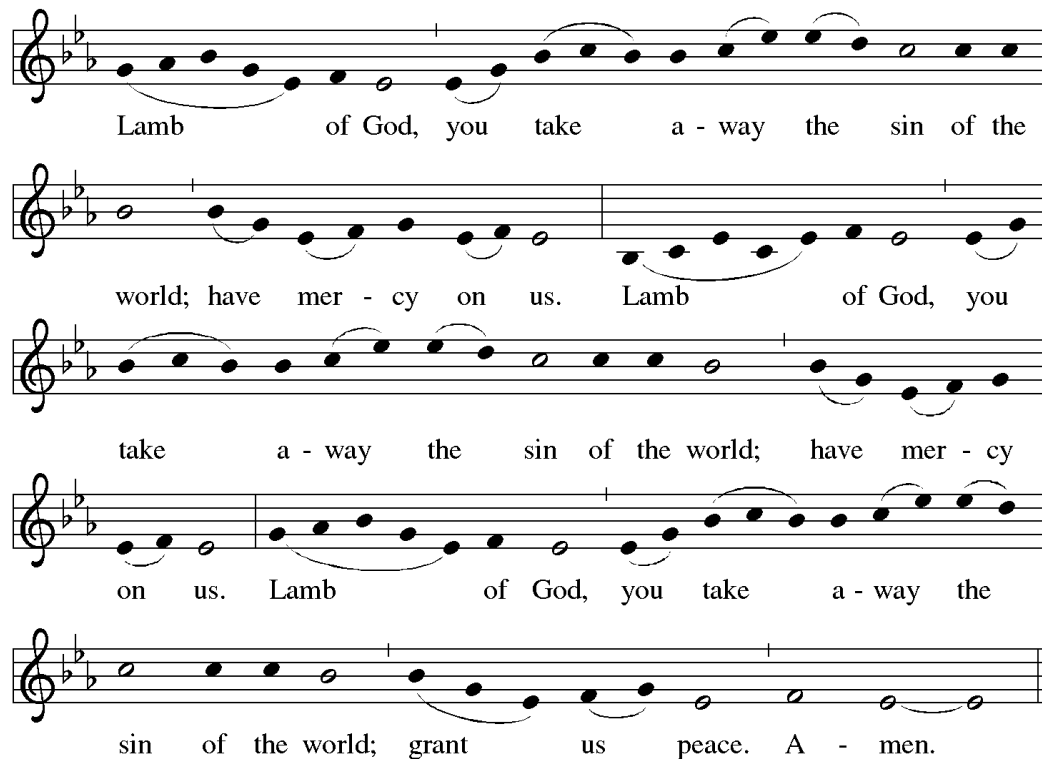
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - 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



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

Communion Music: 9:00 *O Lamb of God Most Holy*
11:00 *"Aberystwyth"*

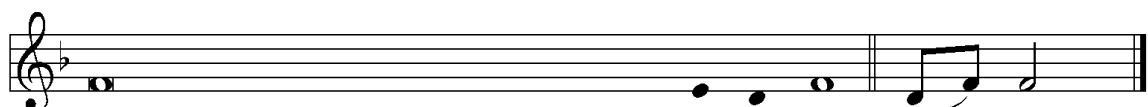
Watts/Gay
Arr for handbells by T. Osman

†Post Communion Blessing & Nunc Dimittis

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

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

†Benediction



☐ Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, A - men
bless you now and for-ever.

†Hymn: *Christ, the Life of All the Living*

Text: E. Homberg 1605-1681, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

Tune: JESU, MEINE LEBENS LEBEN, Darnstadt, 1687

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf-fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,

Christ, your-self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;

through your suf-f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

†Dismissal—*from 3 John 1:2*

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with each one of you, and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul. 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

In stones outside the Holy City's walls
there, buried under cloaks like funeral palls,
intrude like veins high insulated calls
of voyagers who treat paved roads like halls
of government and power and prestige—
where pilgrims holler praises and besiege
God's gate as one: *Hossana à mon liege!*
Their rally cry, their rebel cry— egregious
in the ears of our establishment—
this greeting God beneath the firmament—
this begging heaven's help be permanent
and present here with us— has not been meant
to be contained, but unrestrained God owns
their plea— or mines it buried deep in stones.

PJ's reflection on the Passion Gospel (Luke 23:34)

Forgiveness is a hill on which to die
for Jesus Christ— a hope of faith, and not
a point of fact, Christ Jesus praying "*Why
not please forgive them, God? They haven't got
a clue to grasp this thing they do.*" Grace drips
like mourning sun on sunburned skin: more hot
however, is the sear of scars our whips
and insults, fists and spit now nail to rot
with Jesus Christ. But does he part his lips
to curse us? From God's fortress hill—*The Skull!*—
does Jesus damn us as his good breath slips
away on spring's sprite breezes? Dim and dull,
are Jesus' eyes now falling down like chips
off God's free shoulder, grace while yet he grips?

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