



**St. James Lutheran Church
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
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PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2, 2023

PALMS AND VICTORY

AS WE GATHER

The pilgrims packed Jerusalem during the Feast of Passover, waving palm branches and singing praises to the donkey-riding King who came to save. Not knowing exactly how or even when He would declare His victory over His foes, the multitudes celebrated and were “altogether joyful” (Deuteronomy 16:15). We can have the same joy and gladness in our hearts today as Jesus comes to us through the promised treasures of His Word. Because we have received the full story of His saving actions for us, we are blessed to know that by His death and resurrection that week of Passover, our humble King has delivered us from our enemies—Satan, sin, and death. Let us together be “altogether joyful” in Jesus!

The Preservice Music & The Call to Worship

The Palm Sunday Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

The Processional Hymn “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”
(LSB 441)

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Opening Sentences *2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5*

- P** For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
- C** so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
- P** But He was wounded for our transgressions;

C He was crushed for our iniquities;

P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

C and with His stripes we are healed.

Confession And Absolution *Based on Philippians 2:1–11*

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:

C **Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**

P You call us to celebrate Your victory over death and the grave, but often we resign ourselves to defeat and refuse to give You our praise.

C **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—**

P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

C **With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the eternal King of Israel, King David's royal Son, who in the Lord's name comes to bless us with life and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

A Hymn: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" (LSB 442)

Collect Of the Day

- P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, palms lifted high were waved in the air to celebrate Your triumph. As those who know You as King and Savior, help us to be altogether joyful because of Your victory over our foes.
- C** **Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;**
- P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 16:13–17

- A** The Old Testament Reading is from Deuteronomy, the sixteenth chapter.

¹³“You shall keep the Feast of Booths seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing floor and your winepress. ¹⁴You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns. ¹⁵For seven days you shall keep the feast to the LORD your God at the place that the LORD will choose, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful. ¹⁶“Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place that He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths. They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. ¹⁷Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that He has given you.”

- A** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15

- P** It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
- C** to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
- P** to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and
Your faithfulness by night,
- C** to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody
of the lyre.
- P** For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;
- C** at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.
- P** The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like
a cedar in Lebanon.
- C** They are planted in the house of the LORD;
- P** they flourish in the courts of our God.
- C** They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of
sap and green,
- P** to declare that the LORD is upright;
- C** He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in
Him. Glory be 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.

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9–17

- A** The Second Reading is from Revelation, the seventh
chapter.

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,
¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels were standing

around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 7:28–39

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁸So Jesus proclaimed, as He taught in the temple, “You know Me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of My own accord. He who sent Me is true, and Him you do not know. ²⁹I know Him, for I come from Him, and He sent Me.” ³⁰So they were seeking to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. ³¹Yet

many of the people believed in Him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will He do more signs than this man has done?" ³²The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest Him. ³³Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to Him who sent Me. ³⁴You will seek Me and you will not find Me. Where I am you cannot come." ³⁵The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? ³⁶What does He mean by saying, 'You will seek Me and you will not find Me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come'?" ³⁷On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

Hymn "Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus" (*LSB* 531)

Sermon (During the sermon, children who are ages 3 through grade 2 are invited to participate in KIDZ Time. Children can make their way to the back of the sanctuary where the KIDZ Time teacher is waiting. The children will return to the service following the sermon.)

Offering (Please sign the burgundy Friendship booklet and pass it to other people sitting in your pew. When completed, pass it back to the center aisle and be sure to greet the people next to you! Those sitting by the center aisle: please tear off the completed sheet and place it on the pew. Thank you!)

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

- P** Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.
- C** **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**
- P** Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,
- C** **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**
- P** Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.
- C** **Inspire us by the palm-waving pilgrims who sang Your praises as You entered Jerusalem. Enter our lives that we may have victory in You amid the pain and adversity of this world.**
- P** Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially . . .*], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.
- C** **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

A Hymn: "No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet" (*LSB 444*)

The Announcements and Blessing

The Service of Holy Communion (pp. 160ff)

During The Distribution: “Hosanna/Praise is Raising” (Paul Beloche)

Verse 1

Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

Pre-Chorus

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
(Washed away)

Chorus

Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Verse 2

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

Ending

Hosanna hosanna

CCLI Song # 4662491
Brenton Brown | Paul Baloche
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The Post-Communion Prayer

The Benediction

The Closing Hymn “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” (*LSB* 443)

Events of the Week: April 3 – April 9, 2023

Monday	No Monday Service
Tuesday	6:30 p.m. Discovery Class
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Darrell’s Bible Class
Thursday	7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	Pastor’s Day off
	7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service
Saturday	8:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast
Sunday	8:00 a.m. Gizmo on FB
	8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
	9:30 a.m. Worship
	11:00 a.m. Bible study

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: March 26, 2023

General Fund	\$1,634.00
Building Fund	\$0.00
ISJ Academy	\$0.00
Tessaro Ministry	\$0.00
Memorials	\$20.00
<u>Evangelism</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,654.00

Those Who Serve Today April. 2nd.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Charles Kirt

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Bryan Ensing / Craig Popma

Ushers: Jim & Nancy Spears / Dave Hood

Video/Sound/Recording: Nathan Urbanski, John, and Marjie Weiss

April Altar Guild: Deb, Kelsey, and Lynelle Butler

Those Who are Serving Next Week: April 9th.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Pastor Schaeffer

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Bryan Ensing / Craig Popma

Ushers: Urbanski Family / Jim McKay

Video/Sound/Recording: Nathan Urbanski, John, and Marjie Weiss

April Altar Guild: Deb, Kelsey, and Lynelle Butler

Announcements

Knit / Crocheted Together in Love: Please join us on Sunday April 16, 2023 after church from 10:45am to 1:00pm. Anyone ages 13 and up who is interested in learning the basics of knitting / Crocheting to Advanced. Make sure you bring a snack or lunch for yourself, knitting needles or crochet hooks and yarn if you have some! No need to sign up just join the group.

LWML Grand Rapids Zone Spring Rally: “Raising Christin Children/Grandchildren in Today’s World” You are invited to attend the LWML Spring Rally being held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Caledonia on Saturday, April 22nd, 9:00am- noon. We are excited and blessed to have Jo

Fleming and her daughter Amy Nuttleman, both wives of Lutheran pastors in the Grand Rapids area as our speakers on the topic “Raising Christin Children/Grandchildren in Today’s World”. The admission fee will be \$10.00 which includes breakfast. More information and a sign-up sheet will be coming soon, but be sure to make your calendars now!

The EGGS-traordinary Easter Carnival:

St. James Lutheran Church & ISJ Academy welcome you and your family to attend: An EGGS-traordinary Easter Carnival! The carnival will be held at St. James Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 15, 2023. Our goal for this outreach is to share the joy of Jesus’ resurrection with our community and to promote our Lutheran School, ISJ Academy. This EGGS-tra Special Event will be a Basket Full of Fun Including: An EGGS–ceptional EGG Hunt, EGGS-citing Games & Activities, EGGS-cellent Crafts, & the EGGS-trodinary Account of Jesus’ Resurrection from the Dead! We hope you will drop in to this FREE outdoor event between 1:00-3:00. For more information visit:

www.stjamesgr.com **B.Y.O.B. – Bring Your Own Basket**

Event Volunteers should pick up a T-shirt today or next Sunday. Everyone who is signed up will receive a volunteer information letter in the coming week. It is not too late to volunteer! **Everyone is welcome to join in the fun!**

Good Friday Tre Ore Service: Please join us on April 7, 2023, from 12:00pm – 3:00pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church. To hear the seven last words of Jesus. You may come and go as you are able during this three-hour service. A man’s last words are often the most significant. For more information and to see a list of speakers please see the bulletin board. Our very own pastor Schaeffer will be speaking on “My God, My God”.

Help Stock NECM’s Pantry with Meijer “Simply Give”

Campaign: If you wish to help Meijer in their Simply Give campaign, please grab a \$10 Food Pantry Donation Card on

the table in the lobby. It is very easy to use and a simple to help NECM stock the pantry. Simply scan the card when you by your groceries. Beginning April 2nd to July 1st at both Plainfield and Walker Meijer locations. On Saturday June 17th your \$10.00 becomes \$30.00 on “Double Match Day”.

St. James Holy Week Services: Please join us this week to prepare for the death and resurrection of our Lord. Maundy Thursday is at 7:00pm, Good Friday at 7:00pm, Easter Breakfast at 8:00, and Worship at 9:30. If you are planning to attend Easter breakfast please sign up on the sheet on the table near the church office in the lobby.

Newsletter: Thank you to everyone that gave information to be placed in the newsletter. April is turning out to be a busy month for St. James. Read all about it in the newsletter. Paper copies are on the table in the lobby if you wish to have one. Ashley will be mailing out a copy to our Shut-Ins this week.

Lenten Dinners: A huge thank you to all the groups that provided us with Lenten dinners, and everyone that came to have wonderful fellowship during the dinners.

WML Spring Plant Sale: If you love plants and flowers what a better way to help support our only Lutheran High School in West Michigan. All selections are in 10” plastic hanging baskets with wire hangers. The deadline for all orders is Friday, April 28, 2023. For Order forms and more information please see the table in the lobby.

LWML – *“Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. “1 John 3:18 - **Thank you St. James!** Thank you for having “A Heart for Africa”! Your support of our “Coffee Time – Bake Sale” will make a difference in the lives of Rwandan mothers and their babies! If you would like to make a donation, you can give it to Kris Van Wieren or Sandra Schaeffer.*

Ladies, St. James' LWML meets tonight at 6:00 for Bible study and fellowship. Tonight's study will be led by Pastor Schaeffer. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. On the Sundays we have LWML we collect mites after the service. Mite donations go to support LWML Michigan District and National mission grants.

A Statement on Holy Communion

We rejoice in the celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus comes to us in a very personal manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) It is out of love and care for every individual that comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to refrain from attending the Lord's Supper.

Members of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, who:

- Repent of their sin;
- Believe in Jesus as their Savior;
- Trust that they are receiving, not only bread and wine, but also the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of their sins; and
- Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying no to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life;

are invited to partake of this Holy Meal with us. We request that ALL guests who desire to commune, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service.

If you prefer to come forward for a blessing at the time of Holy Communion, please do so. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that Pastor knows you want to receive a blessing.

NOTE: We provide gluten-free communion host and non-alcohol grape juice. Just let Pastor and/or the assistants know when you come for Holy Communion.