

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28, 2021

Worship 11:00 A.M.

Minister Musicians Rev. Diana Edis Sheila Seidemann

Our worship is live streamed on our Facebook page: St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert. You do not need a Facebook account to access worship.

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Welcome to Worship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. 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.

# Weekly Prayer Petitions

**Local**: Cathedral Church of St. Andrew Anglican – FR Paul Williams **Synod Parishes**: St. Paul's Lutheran in Prince Rupert – Rev. Diana Edis, Our Saviour Lutheran in Richmond – Rev. Christoph Reiners **Anglican/Lutheran Joint Pravers: ACC**: The Pt. Rev. Mary Invin Cibson, Bishon and the people of

**Anglican/Lutheran Joint Prayers: ACC**: The Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson, Bishop and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Montreal **ELCIC**: Deacon Michelle Collins, Assistant to the Bishop and the staff of the Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod.

# **Discipleship Opportunities**

1. Our schedule for Holy Week is as follows:

Final Lenten Devotional gathering: March 29, 7:00 PM PST (see Zoom link below)
No Wednesday evening service.
Maundy Thursday Worship: 7:00 PM PDT by Facebook Live
Good Friday Worship: 7:00 PM PDT on Facebook Live *Easter Sunday Service:* 11:00 AM PDT on Facebook Live

2. The Pastor will not be public during Holy Week nor for the next few weeks as she will be on holidays and education leave following Easter Sunday. The Pastor will be Public again beginning April 28.

3. Our Lenten devotional is based on the book *Queers the Word: a 40 day Devotional for LGBTQ+ Christians* by Shannon Kearns. Although the devotional centers the LGBTQ+ community, allies are welcomed and encouraged to attend. This is a family friendly event. This Monday evening, March 29th at 7:00 will be our last gathering. We meet by Zoom at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81341744134?pwd=WC9WcHJqU3hncThieW00bGZuZlRxdz09 or you may dial in by phone at: +1 778 907 2071 Meeting ID: 813 4174 4134 Passcode: 379918

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\* Our Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license number SB157842.

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*PreludeAnnouncements*L: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.C: Hosanna in the highest.

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Mark 11:1-11

"Processional" Gospel L: The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.** 

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] 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.

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

Blessing of the Palms/Boughs The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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.

Amen.

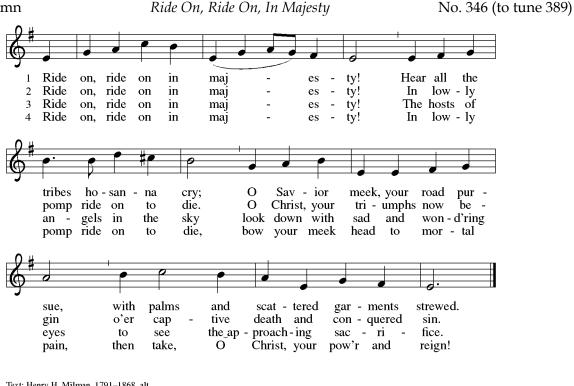
### Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ. Amen.

### Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### Amen.

Gathering Hymn



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L: As we now turn our focus toward the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Our first reading is from Isaiah, beginning at the 50<sup>th</sup> chapter 50:4-9a

The 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.

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.

We read Psalm 31:9-16 responsively: (leader reads the light print, congregation reads the bold)

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;

I am as useless as a broken pot.

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

# But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.

### I have said, "You are my God.

My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

Our second reading is from Philippians, beginning at the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter

2:5-11

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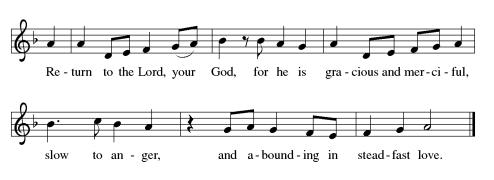
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

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.

L: The word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God

**Gospel Acclamation** 



The holy gospel according to Mark, beginning at the 15th chapter15:1-47Glory to you, O Lord.15:1-47

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many

things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

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!"

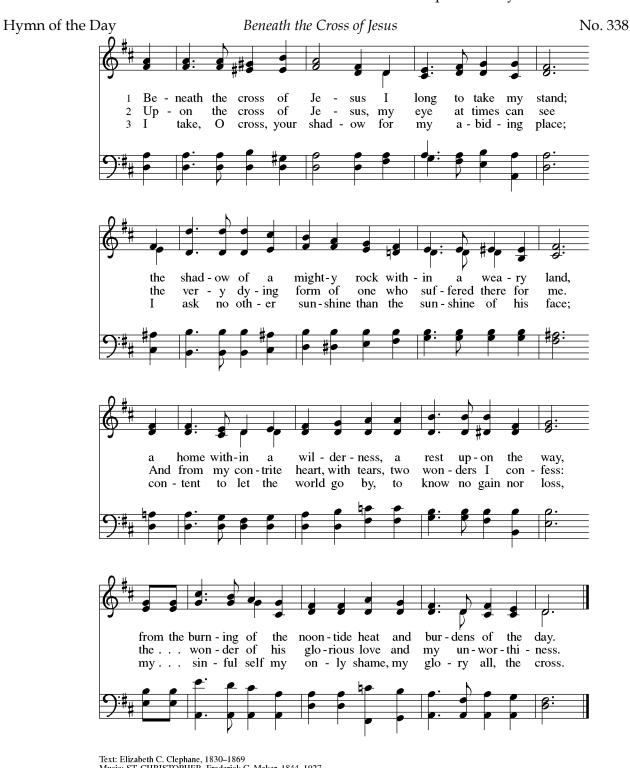
There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

Sermon

### Prepared by Bishop Greg Mohr preached by Rev. Diana Edis



Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869 Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

Apostles' Creed Confession of faith 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 power of the Holy Spirit,

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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*: (petition end: Hear us, O God. (petition response: **Your mercy is great.**)

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

#### Offering

Offerings may be mailed to the church or placed in our mailbox. You can send e-transfers to <u>offering2stpauls@citywest.ca</u>. You may also give electronically through CanadaHelps at St.Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.

#### Offering prayer

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### Amen.

We enter into a time of communion. All people are invited to join in God's meal, however you may choose whether or not to participate. If you hear the call of the Holy Sprit inviting you, please respond. If you would like to learn more about communion you may call the church and speak with the pastor about its significance. You may prepare bread and wine or juice in advance of communion. You may wish to set up a small home altar for this purpose, using: a cross, a candle, an image of Christ (called an icon), and the bread and beverage if you feel so called. The pastor will have a half loaf, symbolizing that the other half of that loaf is present in front of you in your various abiding places. When the bread and beverage are offered by the pastor and you eat and drink you may respond, "Amen." Members of the same household are encouraged to serve one another.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

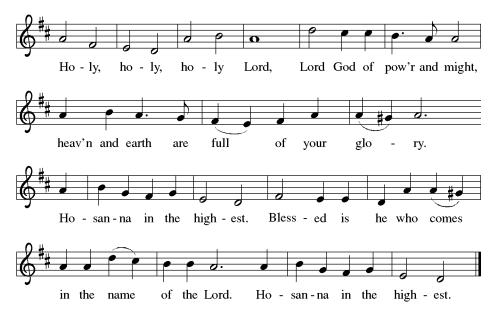
L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

L: 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:



L: Blessed are you, O God of the universe...

... With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life. **Amen.** 

# Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit across time and space, let us pray as Jesus taught us. Using whatever version of that prayer comforts you, we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

L: If the Holy Spirit calls you to this feast of bread and wine or juice, I invite you to receive that which has been prepared, each in our own places, but gathered together around the table of God. Although we are separated at this time by physical distance, we are united, made whole in the body of our Lord. Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

# Communion is offered

L: The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour strengthen you to eternal life. **Amen** 

God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

### Amen.

# Benediction

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

### Amen



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Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God.