

# Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



## *Palm Sunday*

March 24, 2024

9:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.bethanialutheran.org/bulletins/>

**Order of Worship  
for  
Sunday, March 24, 2024**

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS**

**GATHERING**

*(Please rise )*

**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL (John 12:12-16)**

<sup>12</sup>Five days before the Passover the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>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!”

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

<sup>15</sup> “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

<sup>16</sup> 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.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Let all creation shout!

**C: Let us wave the palm branches high. Jesus is coming!**

P: He comes in humility to claim God’s own.

**C: May he claim us this day and heal our hearts!**

P: Hosanna to the Son of David.

**C: Hosanna to the blessed Son of God. AMEN.**

## **PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN**

“All Glory Laud and Honor” # 108

*Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Hymnal*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Compassionate Lord,

We love parades! We love the excitement, the colors, the noise! Today we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. His followers have stripped branches from the trees and wave them in the air. They have thrown their cloaks in the path of the donkey that his steps might be cushioned. And the scene is wonderful. But there is a reality here.

**C: The reality is that although we wave our branches and shout "Hosanna!", we have not always behaved as disciples. Too often we have wandered from the path of Christ and stumbled along on our own, believing our way to be superior. We have turned from those who have needed help, because it wasn't convenient for us to be of help of service. We have done and said things that are not worthy of disciples. Yet, here we stand, in the parade route, waving our branches. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to turn our lives around and truly serve you. Help us to really mean "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!" Let Jesus enter our hearts and transform our lives today, for we ask this in his holy name. AMEN.**

## **SALUTATION**

L : 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.

**C: Amen**

(Please be seated)

## WORD

**OUR FIRST LESSON** is from the book of Isaiah, chapter 50, verses 4 through 9a.

*The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## **OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of Philippians; chapter 2, verses 5 through 11.**

*Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.*

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name

that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

## HOMILY

*(Please rise)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci -  
ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead-fast love.

Text: Joel 2:13

Music: Anne Krentz Organ

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P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

*Please be seated*

## GOSPEL: Mark 15:1-47]

*The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup>Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. <sup>8</sup>So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. <sup>9</sup>Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. <sup>12</sup>Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup>They shouted back, "Crucify him!" <sup>14</sup>Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

<sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>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?" <sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup>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." <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>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!"

<sup>40</sup>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. <sup>41</sup>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.

<sup>42</sup>When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, <sup>43</sup>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. <sup>44</sup>Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. <sup>45</sup>When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup>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. <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
 C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please rise)

## HYMN OF THE DAY -

(ELW # 336)

LENT

336

## Lamb of God Your Only Son



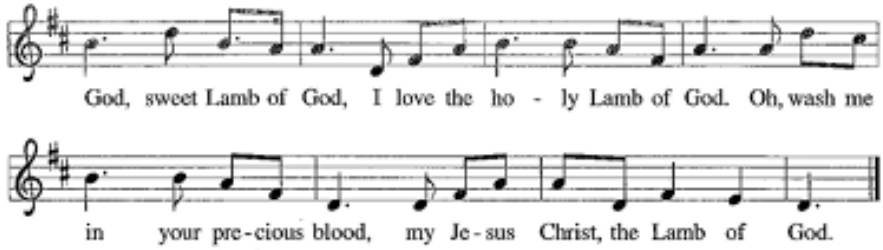
1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me  
in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

## PRAYER SONG



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;  
Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

## PRAYERS

P: 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.

*A brief silence.*

P: 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.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Establish peace and justice among the nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Give energy and joy to our pastor/s, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

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

C: **Amen.**

## PRAYER SONG (repeated)



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: **And also with you.**

*(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with one another)*

# OFFERTORY

(WOV 759)



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

Jesus, you are the bread of life

and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

**C: Amen**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: 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 in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
And gave it for all to drink, saying;  
This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you  
And for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this in remembrance of me.

P: Let us join our hands and hearts together in the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray:

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

*(Please be seated)*

## SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/ covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.



## **COMMUNION HYMN -**

"Were You There" # 92

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

*(Please rise)*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

L: Let us Pray,

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**C: Amen.**

# BLESSING

P: The road has been long.

You have seen much on this journey,

but it is not time to quit.

There is much to be done.

Go in peace, dear people of God.

Go ready to proclaim with your lives that Jesus is Lord and Savior.

Go to offer God's love and peace to all.

**C: AMEN!**

## SENDING HYMN - "Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross" (TFF #73)



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

## RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

### **TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Jerod Alderson

Communion Assistants: Kelly Imhoff & Jerod Alderson

Building Host, Acolyte & Offering Presenter: Kelly Imhoff

Coffee Hour: Open Altar Flowers: Open

### **WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 3/31):**

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Communion Assistants: Anita Neilsen & Brad Larsen

Lector, Acolyte, Offering Presenter & Host: Brad Larsen

Coffee Hour: Open Altar Flowers: Easter

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### **Maundy Thursday Worship**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024—7:00 p.m.**

### **Good Friday Worship -Friday, March 29, 2024—7:00 p.m.**

*Held at: Bethania Lutheran Church,  
4120 Wright Avenue, Racine.*

# THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, March 24, 2024 - Palm Sunday

**9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live**

**10:30 a.m. -COFFEE HOUR**

**11:15 a.m. Gospel Talk with Pastor Paul**

Monday, March 25, 2024 -

Office Closed

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 -

Office Closed

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 -

Office Closed

Thursday, March 28, 2024 - Maundy Thursday

Office Closed

7:00 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, March 29, 2024 - Good Friday

Office Closed

7:00 p.m.—Good Friday Worship

Sunday, March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday

**9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live**

**10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour**