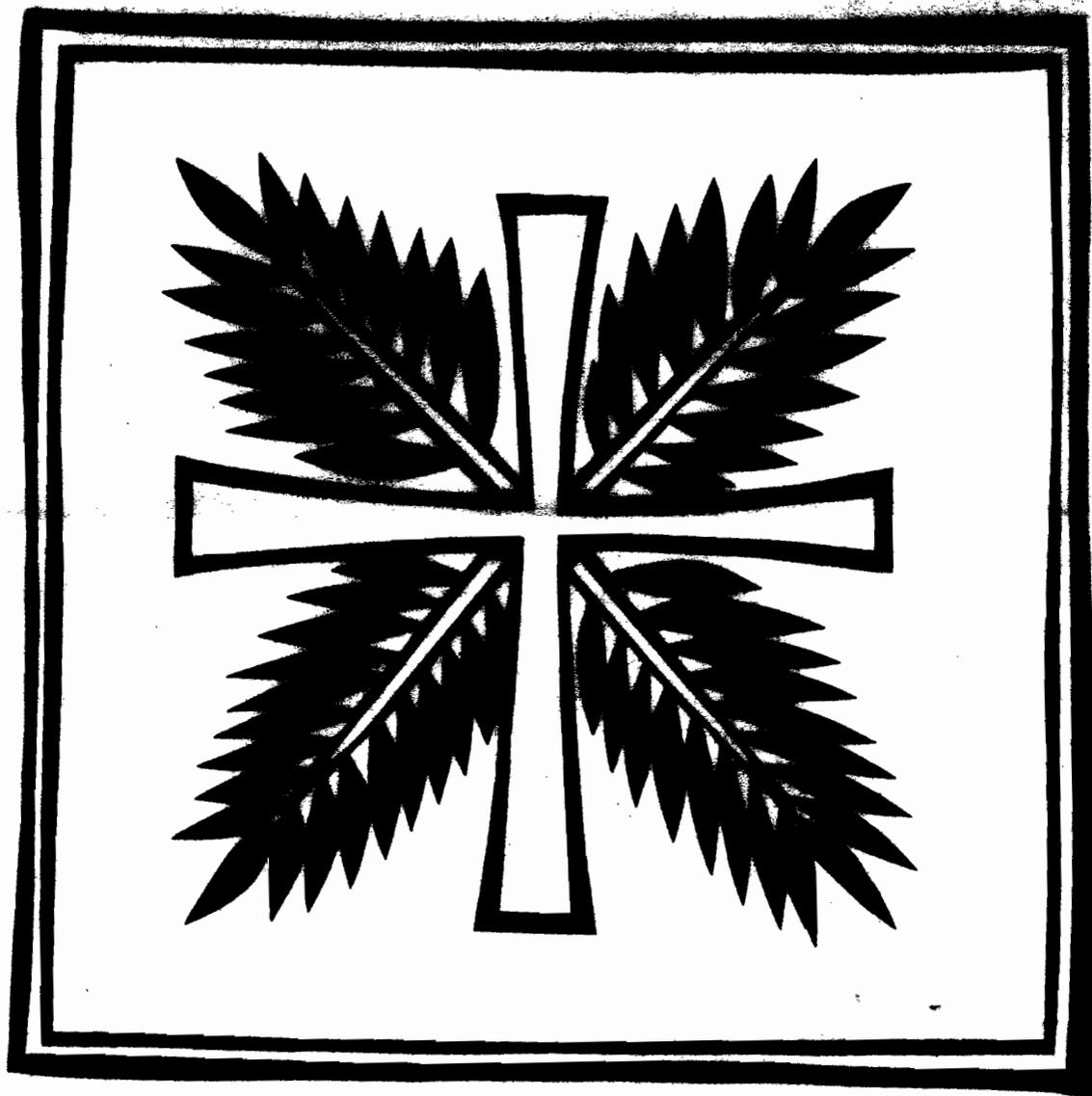


**April 1st, 2012**  
**Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**



**Sunday, April 1, 2012**

## **Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday/Holy Communion**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The first and second readings and psalm are the same this Sunday every year: Christ emptying himself of divine power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable to those who struck him and put him to death. With Christ we lament his suffering and all human suffering, but expect God's final vindication. Mark's passion story begins with an unnamed woman anointing his head, perhaps to proclaim him Messiah, and Jesus saying she has anointed him beforehand for burial. Mark's Easter story will begin with women going to anoint Jesus for burial, only to find that he has been raised, God's living Anointed One.*

### **GATHERING**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1–11**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## BLESSING OF PALMS

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.**

**CHOIR:                   “Hosanna! Sing Praises”**

## PROCESSION

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

*Refrain*

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One.

*Refrain*

The company of angels are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply.

*Refrain*

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went.  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

*Refrain*

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

*Refrain*

Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious king.

*Refrain*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **INTRODUCTION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

As we now enter into the contemplation of 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.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:**                    **“Comes the King”**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4–9a**

*The image of the servant of the Lord 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.*

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?

**PSALM: Psalm 31:9–16**

*Refrain: Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

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 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. R**

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." R**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5–11**

*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.*

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.

## **GOSPEL: Mark 14:1—15:47**

*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. [Please read Mark's witness in your Bible this week as we prepare our hearts for the resurrection of Jesus.]*

**HYMN: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"**

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## **SERMON**

## **OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

We cry to you for help, O God, praying for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

*A time for silent prayer.*

For all Christians who today raise palms and hear the story of your passion; for humility as we confess you as Lord; for our Jewish brothers and sisters who will soon celebrate Passover. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For wastelands and deep waters; for mountain peaks and valley floors; for ancient forests and high plains; for creeping things, swimming things, flying things, and running things.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of nations and tribes around the globe; for all who enact laws; for all who sit in judgment over others. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For those who have been deserted and their deserters; for victims of crime and for persons on death row; for those who are ill (*especially*); for all grieving the loss of loved ones (*especially*); for all who care for the dying and the dead: nurses, hospice workers, coroners, and funeral directors. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For a spirit of welcome, as our congregation enters this Holy Week; for energy for our musicians and pastor/s, our readers and altar guild, and all preparing for the worship services this week. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be made.*

We thank you for all the saints who cried "Hosanna" to the Lord in life and now rest in everlasting light. Bless us with their memory, and sustain us by your Word. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Now is the acceptable time to offer our prayers to you, God of grace and truth. Receive them in your mercy, and grant us all that we need, in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**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 Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. 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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **COMMUNION**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Go to Dark Gethsemane”**

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### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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E-mail address: [blcmalmo@frontiernet.net](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Winfield Johnson

Church Secretary: Evie Richter Youth: Susie Modrow

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN 320-495-3988

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community. We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Blessings and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and everyday!* Visitors are asked to please sign the guest book in the Narthex. All are asked to fill in the Green communion card and hand to usher or place in offering plate.

Today (the first Sunday of the month) is **BLESSING BOX SUNDAY**. Following the offering we will pass the Blessing Box at which time you may give a portion of what God has blessed you with this past month. The monies received are used to fulfill the church's wish list. The latest project was to replace one of our furnaces which had quit working. Through your generosity we were able to pay for the furnace in full.

### **EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE**

April 5<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 6:30 p.m.

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday Service of the Nails at 9:00 a.m.

April 8<sup>th</sup> – Easter Morning Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Today (April 1<sup>st</sup>) there is a **Pancake Breakfast at the Wealthwood Rod & Gun Club** from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser for Boy Scout Troop 52. See Bulletin Board for further information.

A pair of **glasses** were **found** in the sanctuary on March 18<sup>th</sup>. If they are yours, please claim them from the table in the church secretary's office.

Monday at 8:30 a.m. we will be doing the **Nature Trail Clean Up**. Bring along chain saws, come-alongs, gloves, and good cheer.

### **ARE YOU MISSING KITCHEN ITEMS FROM YOUR KITCHEN???**

Please check the items on the table in the Fellowship Hall to see if any of these items are yours, they need to find their way home. If they are not gone by the end of the month they will be donated to charity.

**SPECIAL WORSHIP & MUSIC EVALUATION/PLANNING SESSION** will take place on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Now will be your opportunity to make your opinion known regarding our services—what time should they be, what music would you like, what kind of special music should we have, what type of service would you like. Come join us as we need everyone's input to help make our worship services a special time.