

April 13, 2014
Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: blcmalmo@frontiernet.net

Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Mary Kramer

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

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 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

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INTRODUCTION

Today's liturgy begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Quickly the tone of the service changes as we meditate upon Jesus' passion and death. Because this story is so central to our faith, we hear Matthew's account of the passion today and John's version on Good Friday. Though Jesus is obedient even unto death on the cross, he is exalted by God. We gather to remember his offering for the life of the world, and to be fed by his life-giving mercy. This holy week will culminate in the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

GATHERING

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28–40

Glory to you, O Lord.

After he had said this, he 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."

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.

PROCESSION

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

OPENING HYMN: “All Glory Laud and Honor”

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PRAYER OF THE DAY INTRODUCTION

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

FIRST READING:

Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

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.

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 disgrace 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

Please Read Matthew 26:14-27:66 to Prepare for Holy Week.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 21:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethpage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent
two disciples, saying to them,

“Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her
colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him
that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a
donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” The disciples went and did as Jesus had
instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and
Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut
branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him
and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

The crowds answered,

“This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

SERMON HYMN: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” vs. 1, 2, 4

#351 ELW

SERMON: “Prelude to the Passion”

OFFERING & OFFERTORY HYMN: “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

As we enter this holy week, together let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world, that our sisters and brothers in every land be renewed in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let us pray for the fragile gift of creation, that our world's many scars and sufferings find healing in God's mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let us pray for the nations of the world, especially where betrayal and injustice reign and God's children perish by the sword of violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let us pray for those in need—for those who are grieved or distressed, lonely or despairing, ill or in pain (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism and for all seeking renewal amid these holy days that we might all be transformed in Christ's love poured out for the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Finally, let us give thanks for the saints, whose faithful witness, even unto death, has given to us the gift of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God of love, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN: **“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”** **# 335 ELW**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOVE LIKE JESUS-Encourage. The focus for April is to encourage. Our Lord Jesus taught us to encourage one another and build up one another. How might you encourage someone this week?

PLEASE RETURN YOUR JELLY JARS! We need 30 Dozen and only have 8 dozen empty back on the shelf. We also appreciate your financial donations to purchase new jars.

SIGN UP FOR EASTER LILIES. Today is the last day to sign up and pay for your Easter lilies. Sign up in the fellowship hall after service.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF offers Personal Care Kits to third world countries in need. Bethesda WELCA would like us all to help send personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief for distribution. Each kit is to contain: One light or medium weight towel, dark in color, 52” x 27”, 2 bath sized bars 4-5 oz of soap in original wrapping, one adult sized tooth brush in original packaging (toothbrush multi packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business sized paper envelope). No plastic. One sturdy comb, no packaging, one metal nail clipper, packaging removed. You can purchase every item, wrap in the towel and tie. Return to church and place by the donation sign for Personal Care Kits. Patterns are available and material for the pillow case dresses. With a little sewing the fabric can be turned into a lovely little dress.

