

# Palm Sunday

Holy Communion | 9:00 a.m., April 13, 2025



## Welcome to worship this morning!

We are glad you're here! Please know that **children** are welcome to remain in worship; they are also welcome to take a break in our "Kid's Korner" in the Gathering Space where the service audio is played through speakers. **Bathrooms** are located down the hall, past the church office. **Hymns** are printed in the red book (ELW) available in the pew rack.

We practice open communion at St. Matthew, meaning all who desire the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome. You may also come forward to receive a blessing if you prefer. During the distribution of Holy Communion, ushers will direct the congregation forward to receive communion in a continuous line. The pastors will distribute communion wafers, which you may intinct (dip) into the red wine, or white grape juice, held by communion assistants. Please **do not sip** from the chalices. Gluten free wafers are also available. A pastor will deliver the sacrament to anyone unable to come forward. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit, available at the usher's table.

All are welcome!

**PRELUDE:** *Lift Up Your Heads*

**Michael Burkhardt**

## GATHERING

*Anyone who desires to join in the procession of palms is invited to gather in the narthex and gathering space.*

## PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>28</sup> After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them.

<sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> They said, “The Lord needs it.”

<sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> 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, <sup>38</sup> saying,

“Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!”

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## BLESSING OF THE PALMS

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 OF THE PALMS

*Pastor will lead the procession of palms. Congregation members are invited to follow and wave palms branches while singing “All Glory, Laud, and Honor.” Those processing are invited to walk up the center aisle, and upon reaching the front to bow and walk to their seats using the left or right side aisles.*

# All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

## WELCOME

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM: *Hosanna*

**Marie Pooler**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the Son of David.  
Blessed is he that cometh, cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, Marie Pooler © 1962, Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved.

## FIRST 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.*

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians:

<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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING: Psalm 31:9-16

We will now read responsively from the Book of Psalms:

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.  
<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**  
<sup>11</sup>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.  
<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**  
<sup>13</sup>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.  
<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, "You are my God.**  
<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.  
<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 5



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

**PASSION NARRATIVE: Luke 22:14—23:56**

*The congregation will read the bolded text.*

NARRATOR: When the hour for the Passover meal came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

JESUS: "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

JESUS: "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

NARRATOR: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

NARRATOR: And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

JESUS: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!"

NARRATOR: Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this.

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,

JESUS: "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

"You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

NARRATOR: And he said to him,

PETER: "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me."

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?"

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLES: "No, not a thing."

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLES: "Lord, look, here are two swords."

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "It is enough."

NARRATOR: He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

JESUS: "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

NARRATOR: Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

JESUS: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

NARRATOR: Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

JESUS: "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

NARRATOR: While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

NARRATOR: When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

DISCIPLES: "Lord, should we strike with the sword?"

NARRATOR: Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

JESUS: "No more of this!"

NARRATOR: And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"



NARRATOR: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

SERVANT 1: "This man also was with him."

NARRATOR: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: "Woman, I do not know him."

NARRATOR: A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

ACCUSER 1: "You also are one of them."

NARRATOR: But Peter said,

PETER: "Man, I am not!"

NARRATOR: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

ACCUSER 2: "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

NARRATOR: But Peter said,

PETER: "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"

NARRATOR: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

SOLDIERS: "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?"

NARRATOR: They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

**ASSEMBLY: "If you are the Messiah, tell us."**

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

NARRATOR: All of them asked,

**ASSEMBLY: "Are you, then, the Son of God?"**

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: "You say that I am."

NARRATOR: Then they said,

**ASSEMBLY: "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"**

NARRATOR: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

**ASSEMBLY: "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."**

NARRATOR: Then Pilate asked him,

PILATE: "Are you the king of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: He answered,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

PILATE: "I find no basis for an accusation against this man."

NARRATOR: But they were insistent and said,

**ASSEMBLY: "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."**

NARRATOR: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,

PILATE: "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

NARRATOR: Then they all shouted out together,

**ASSEMBLY: "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!"**

NARRATOR: (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

**ASSEMBLY: "Crucify, crucify him!"**

NARRATOR: A third time he said to them,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him."

NARRATOR: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

JESUS: "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

*(At the mention of the place called the Skull, all should stand, as able.)*

NARRATOR: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

JESUS: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

NARRATOR: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

**ASSEMBLY: "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"**

NARRATOR: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

SOLDIERS: "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

NARRATOR: There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."  
One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

CRIMINAL 1: "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

NARRATOR: But the other rebuked him, saying,

CRIMINAL 2: "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

NARRATOR: Then he said,

CRIMINAL 2: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

NARRATOR: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

JESUS: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

NARRATOR: Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

CENTURION: "Certainly this man was innocent."

NARRATOR: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Go to Dark Gethsemane***

**ELW 347 (v. 1 - 3)**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing, or sitting.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of glory, laud, and honor, make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, sprouting wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign of the cross, guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. Make your church a voice for peace, justice, and welcome in our country and in our world. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Prince of peace, let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Crucified King, we pray for the disinherited of this world. Inspired by our Lenten midweek worship theme, guide us to serve the poor, feed the hungry, welcome the foreigner, embrace the disregarded, heal the sick, and liberate the oppressed. Embolden and prosper the work of those who strive to bring economic justice, food security, hospitality, education, healthcare and healing in this and every place. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Lamb of Calvary, give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, musicians and sextons, office staff and dedicated volunteers, altar guilds and assisting ministers, lectors and ushers, acolytes and livestream techs. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.  
*The congregation may be seated.*

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*At this time, ushers will pass the offering plate if you desire to give a financial gift. Donations may also be given online at [stmatthewavon.org/give](http://stmatthewavon.org/give), using the QR code in this bulletin, or mailed directly to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!*

**OFFERTORY:** *Da Jesus an dem Kreuze stund*

**Johann Caspar Ferdinand Fischer**

# PRESENTATION HYMN: *As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW 465

*All rise as the gifts are brought forward.*

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
*Refrain*  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

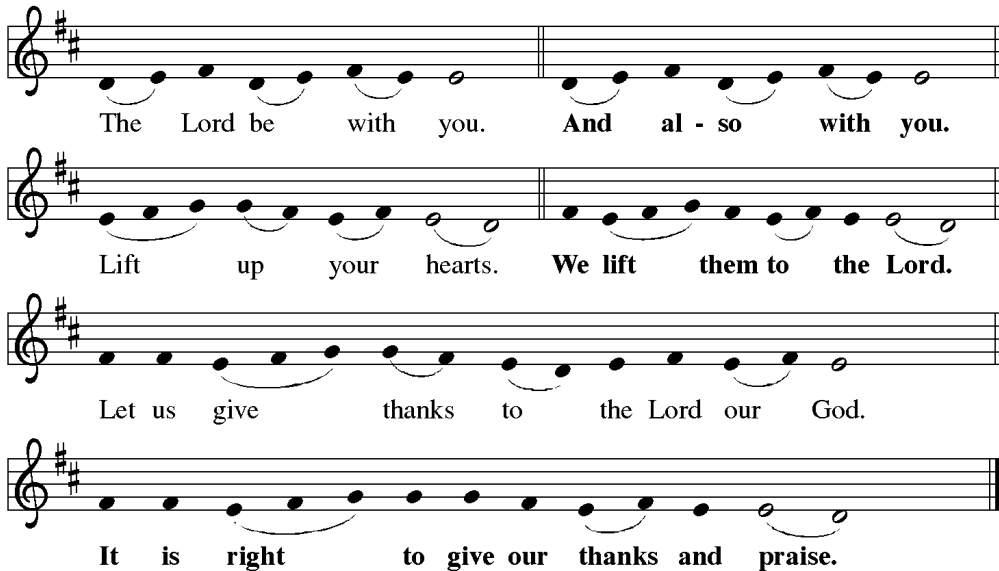
Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music: Marty Haugen; Text and Music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**



## HOLY COMMUNION



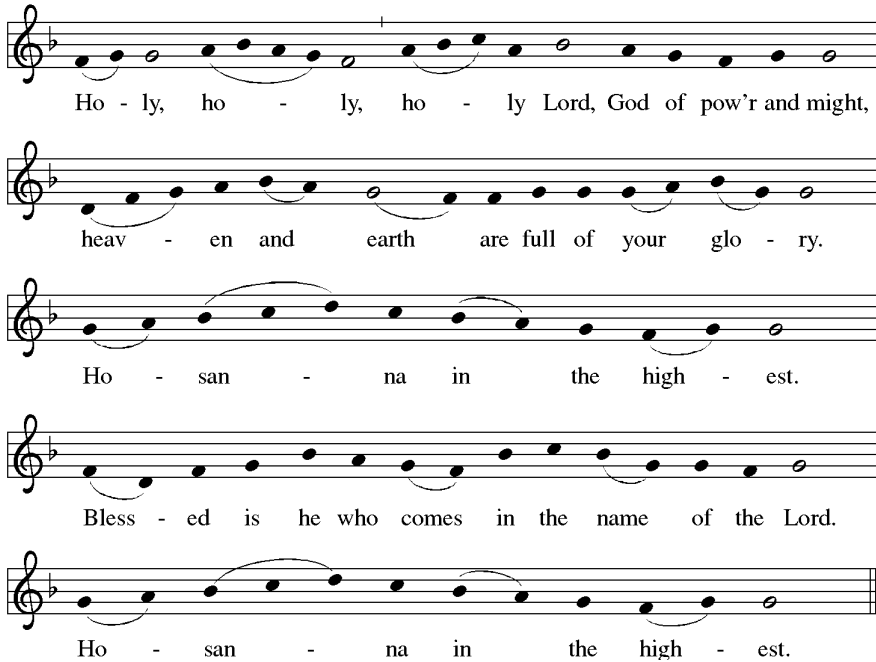
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

# SANCTUS

ELW Setting 5



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

*At this time, ushers will direct the congregation to form two lines. You will receive a communion wafer from a pastor, which you are invited to intinct (dip) into the red wine or white grape juice held by the communion assistants. Please do not drink from the chalices. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or indicate to an usher to have a pastor deliver the sacrament to your seat.*

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### **THE DISTRIBUTION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

# AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 5

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMN: *At the Name of Jesus  
Jesus, Remember Me*

ELW 416

ELW 616

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST BLESSING

God of abundance, we give you thanks for the meal we are about to share and thank you for the many hands that have worked to prepare our Palm Sunday Breakfast. Bless our time of food and fellowship. And be with those who do not have enough to eat and who lack meaningful community. As we enjoy this meal this morning, we pray that you work through our hands to feed the hungry and hasten the day when all will be fed as we are now. As we begin Holy Week, keep us mindful of the sacred days we are about to enter, and keep us forever focused on the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

As you go on your way may Christ go with you.  
May he go before you to show you the way,  
Behind you to encourage you,  
Beside you to befriend,  
Above you to watch over,  
And within you to give you peace. † **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

ELW 324

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**  
*All depart in silence, in reverence for Christ's passion and death which we have just observed.*

## POSTLUDE: *Herzlich tut mich verlangen*

Johannes Brahms

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**Today's Altar Flowers are provided by Donna Urbinati with much love to Baby Charlotte and Mom Lauren DeVeau.**

**Please join us following worship for our Palm Sunday Potluck Breakfast!**

## THANKS TO OUR PASSION NARRATIVE READERS!

Narrator: Will Abbott  
Chief Priests - Pastor Brian  
Disciples - Dahlia Codispoti  
Jesus - Andrew Kessler  
Peter - Elizabeth Kessler  
Judas - Rev Ryan  
Servant Girl - Dahlia Codispoti  
Pilate - Pastor Brian  
Centurion - Rev. Ryan

## MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

**Ushers:** Kevin Reichler  
**Lectors:** Ben Wright  
**Live Stream:** Ben Wright

**Acolyte:** Wyatt Boswell  
**Assisting Minister:** Will Abbott  
**Altar Guild:** Anita Mielert & Robin Lindquist

## STAFF

**Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok – [pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org)  
**Associate Pastor:** The Rev. Ryan Heckman – [revryan@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:revryan@stmatthewavon.org)  
**Director of Music:** Sarah Schiener-Redenz – [music@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:music@stmatthewavon.org)  
**Office Administrator:** Paul Martin – [office@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:office@stmatthewavon.org) or (860) 673-3301  
**Sexton:** Roy Zurell – contact the office

## VISIT US ONLINE

**Website:** [www.stmatthewavon.org](http://www.stmatthewavon.org)      **YouTube:** @StMatthewAvon  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch)      **Instagram:** @stmatthewlutheranavon

## THE WEEK AHEAD

|                  |  |  |                                 |                              |
|------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 9am: Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion | 10:20 – 11:15am: Palm Sunday Breakfast |                                 |                              |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 10am: A.A.                                 |  | 2pm: Choir Rehearsal            |                              |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 9:30am & 5:15pm: W.W                       |  | 7pm: O.A.                       |                              |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 10am: Bible Study                          | 2pm: Centering Prayer                  | 6pm: Simple Soup Supper         | 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service |
| <b>Friday</b>    | OFFICE CLOSED                              |  | 7pm: Good Friday Service        |                              |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 9:00 am: Easter Sunday Service             |  | 11:00 am: Easter Sunday Service |                              |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SIMPLE SOUP SUPPER

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 17th @ 6pm**

St. Matthew will be coming together for a simple soup supper before worship on Maundy Thursday. If you're interested in attending, please write your name and party size on the sign-up sheet posted in the Gathering Space, or contact the church office directly.

There will also be a sign-up sheet for those willing to share their culinary skill to provide soup and/or rolls and bread. If you'd like, you can also contact the office to let us know what you can bring.

### BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: FILM SCREENING AND Q&A WITH ROBERT ABBOTT

#### **Saturday, May 3 @ 7pm in the Hall of the Evangelists**

Six-time Emmy award winner and St. Matthew member Robert Abbott will be screening his 2018 film "Port of Destiny: Peace", chronicling former Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos' path to peace in a polarizing political environment. The documentary will be introduced by Robert and followed up by a Q&A.

There will be a suggested donation of \$10 which will be donated to a peace-seeking organization that is yet to be determined. More details will be distributed in the next few weeks via email and Sunday announcements.

## ONLINE GIVING

Make a one-time gift, or set-up recurring donations, via Vanco! You may use the QR code below to access the website, or visit: [stmatthewavon.org/online-giving](http://stmatthewavon.org/online-giving)

*We ask those that wish to set-up recurring donations, please select the "GENERAL OPERATING FUND" and choose withdrawals to take place on either the 1st or 15th of the month. Thank you! If you have any difficulty, please contact the church office or see one of the Pastors after service!*



### **St. Matthew Mission Statement:**

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a worshipping community called to proclaim God's love for all and to grow spiritually together. Challenged by Jesus' example, we strive to connect people of all ages, abilities, and needs, and to nurture them to be disciples of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the wider community and welcome our neighbors to a life of worship, preaching, teaching, Christian care, service, and spiritual growth.*

***In Christ, We Are Digging Deep, Reaching Out, Changing Lives.***