

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 8:30 AM**

**WELCOME**



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.

✝ Presiding Minister: The Rev. Diane Burkland

**HYMN: Hosanna**

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest  
Lord we lift up your name, With hearts full of praise.  
Be exalted oh Lord my God. Hosanna in the highest.

Glory, glory, glory to the king of kings.  
Glory, glory, glory to the king of kings.  
Lord we lift up Your name, with hearts full of praise.  
Be exalted, oh Lord, my God. Glory to the King of Kings.

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**HYMN: Holy, Holy, Holy**

- 1- Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty  
Early in the morning  
Our song shall rise to Thee  
Holy, Holy, Holy  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons blessed Trinity
- 2- Holy, Holy, Holy all the saints adore Thee  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Falling down before Thee  
Who wert and art and evermore shall be

- 3- Holy, Holy, Holy through the darkness  
hide Thee  
Though the eye made blind by sin  
Thy glory may not see  
Only thou art holy  
There is none beside Thee  
Perfect in pow'r in love and purity
- 4- Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty  
All thy works shall praise Thy name  
In earth and sky and sea  
Holy, Holy, Holy  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons blessed Trinity

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**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.**

## GOD'S HOLY WORD

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

<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?

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**



### Psalm 31:9-16

<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."**



### SECOND READING: Philippians 2: 5-11

<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.

## HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Mark 11:1 – 11. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

<sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup>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.

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## SERMON – The Rev. Diane Burkland

### "Pressing Onward"

## OFFERING

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✠ At this time, we recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests you may have submitted for our worship.

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.*

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill.

† We especially recognize, silently or aloud, those from our families and community in greatest need of our prayers and your blessings.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life. Hear us, Oh God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Invitation to Communion** – Friends, come forward and experience the love of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for you.



## OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

## COMMUNION HYMN: Create In Me A Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, Oh God,  
And renew a right Spirit within me.  
Create in me a clean heart, Oh God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, Oh Lord,  
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,  
And renew a right Spirit within me.

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**Closing Prayer** - 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. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN: Prepare the Royal Highway

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|--|---|
| 1 Prepare the royal highway;<br>the King of kings is near!<br>Let ev'ry hill and valley<br>a level road appear!<br>Then greet the King of glory,<br>foretold in sacred story: <b>Refrain</b>                           | 3 Then fling the gates wide open<br>to greet your promised king!<br>Your king, yet ev'ry nation<br>its tribute too may bring.<br>All lands will bow before him;<br>their voices join your singing: <b>Refrain</b> |
| 2 God's people, see him coming:<br>your own eternal king!<br>Palm branches strew before him!<br>Spread garments! Shout and sing!<br>God's promise will not fail you!<br>No more shall doubt assail you! <b>Refrain</b> | 4 His is no earthly kingdom;<br>it comes from heav'n above.<br>His rule is peace and freedom<br>and justice, truth, and love.<br>So let your praise be sounding<br>for kindness so abounding: <b>Refrain</b>      |

### **Refrain**

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

**Dismissal:** Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

### **Notes:**

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