



Sunday, March 24, 2024

Passion Sunday / Palm Sunday

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.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshiping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion: *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801

Church Office: Monday/Tuesday 9 am - 2 pm Wednesday/Thursday 9 am - 3 pm, Friday Noon - 3 pm

Church Office: 516/931-0710

Rev. Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter

Christine Goetzger-Sedlak, President of the Congregation

Mason Griffin, Minister of Music

Fern Funk, Parish Administrator (email ststephenoffice@msn.com)

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Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY

+ GATHERING +

ACCLAMATION

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

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

P The holy gospel according to Mark. C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and 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. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then 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. C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF PALMS

P The Lord be with you. C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

PROCESSION: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (ELW 344)

Refrain



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

The musical notation is a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half).



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,

kegram



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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 help 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.**

+ **WORD** +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴The 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. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I 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.

⁷The 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; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I 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.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

Refrain

¹³For 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.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine up- on your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

Refrain

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

**GOSPEL:
THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *What Wondrous Love Is This* (ELW 666)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

C 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 to the dead. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A 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.

The response to the Prayers of Intercession is: C Your mercy is great.

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

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Lynn Browning (3/24)

BIRTHDAY SONG

He who began a good work in you 2x

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

+ MEAL +

OFFERING: *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (ELW 185)



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
 pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
 Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
 with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
 and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.**

+ SENDING +


P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

BLESSING


P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Now We Remain* (ELW 500)


Refrain




We hold the death of the Lord deep in our hearts.



Liv-ing, now we re - main with Je - sus the Christ.



1 Once we were peo-ple a - fraid, lost in the night. Then by your



cross we were saved; dead be-came liv-ing, life from your giv-ing.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you. C Thanks be to God.

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

We read the passion according to St. Mark in the midst of the community on this day so that the story of Jesus' suffering and death will be a place where all our individual and communal stories of pain, loss, suffering, and death during the past year can find some meaning. For we are confronted each day with the tragedies of human suffering that seem to challenge the truth of God's love and providential care for us. The Christian response to human suffering is not finally a philosophically reasoned series of answers, but an invitation to the kenosis, the self-emptying, of Jesus. The Marcan passion narrative bids us to enter into Jesus' struggle to accept in faith the reality of suffering in human life. God created us as human beings that we might have life and have it in abundance. In the self-emptying of Jesus' passion, death and sin are conquered because they are taken into the mystery of God and transformed into new life. Today let us allow our experience of suffering to flow into the mystery of the cup of Christ's passion. Come to the table of the cross, and share in the victory of Christ by drinking new life greater than all the forces of suffering and death.—*Thomas McGonigle, O.P.*

Upcoming Commemorations

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980 Sunday, March 24, 2024

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord ~ Monday, March 25, 2024

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

**Announcements for the week of
March 24, 2024**

*Sanctuary Candle for the month of March is given to the glory of God and
in loving memory of Frank O'Brien by The O'Brien Family*

JOIN US FOR SERVICES!



Maundy Thursday ~ March 28 at 7:30 pm
Good Friday ~ March 29 at 7:30 pm
Easter Vigil ~ March 30 at 7:30 pm
Easter Sunday ~ March 31 at 9:30 am

**** GOOD FRIDAY READERS NEEDED ****

Be an important part of our service and share in the Good Friday story!

The sign-up sheet and readings are in the Narthex. *When you sign up for a part, please be sure to take the appropriate reading so you can practice before the big day!*

Speak with Pastor Joann if you have questions.

All Hands On Deck! ~ Altar Guild will be setting up the sanctuary for Easter on Saturday, March 30th beginning at 10 AM. Any and all help will be appreciated!

Easter Basket Update! By the middle of March, we had collected more than 300 lbs of nutritious food items, beverages, cookies and chocolate candies. These were delivered to LSS's New LIFE Center to fill many Easter baskets. Thanks to all who contributed.

The St. Stephen's blanket/comforter drive ends today.



Bowling at Levittown Lanes (56 Tanners Lane, Levittown)
Saturday, April 13 from 3 pm - 5 pm. Please see the sign-up sheet/flyer in the Narthex. \$25 per person including shoe rental.

Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet for April - June is available in the Narthex. Please consider hosting a coffee hour by supplying refreshments and/or serving.

A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516/931-0710.

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (March 24th - March 31st)

Today	Palm Sunday
	9:30 am Holy Communion
Tuesday	7:00 pm <i>Back to Basics (AA)</i>
Thursday	7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	Office Closed
	7:30 pm Good Friday Service
Saturday	7:30 pm Easter Vigil Service
Next Sunday, Easter Sunday	
	9:30 am Holy Communion

SERVING AT WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Sunday, 9:30 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER:	Victoria Maxey
LECTOR:	Brianna Feeney
ACOLYTES:	Sara LaGuarina, Kiko Reyes
ACCOMPANIEST:	Gregory Hunter
USHERS:	Kevin Barcavage, Rich Humann
GREETER:	Claire Parrett
AUDIO/VISUAL:	Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD:	Lauren & Bill Artus

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Lauren Artus
Dolly Braun
Rudy & Dottie Eberhardt
Roger Engert
Dottie McPartlin
Lois Menik

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Joe (brother-in-law of Mark Hammaren)
Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello)
Fred & Janet Barrell (brother-in-law & sister of Susan Portz)
Wendy & Joe Bezko Colligan (sister & brother-in-law of Jeanne Bezko)
Roseann DeGennaro (cousin of Laureen Aiello)
Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)
John Parrett (husband of Claire Parrett)

Krista Parrett (daughter-in-law of Claire Parrett)
David Smiloff (brother of Debbie De Louise)
Diana Smiloff (sister-in-law of Debbie De Louise)
Arlene Stafford (aunt of Kathy Hesse)
The family and friends who mourn the loss of Joseph Muller

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Dan Buckholt (friend of Allison Barone)
Robert Ciaccio (friend of The Barone Family)
Ed & Marie Gomula & The Gomula Family (friends of Debbie De Louise)
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)
Carol Lorenzut (friend of Bill & Lauren Artus)
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)
Bill Stanton (friend of Kelli Barone)
Stephanie Thorton (friend of Hesse Family)