



Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding
Karina Roth, Musical Director

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Marais, MN
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Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore and Beyond!



Introduction

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

Prelude

Karina Roth

Gathering

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.** *(Repeated several times)*

Processional Hymn

All Glory Laud and Honor

ELW 344

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.

Welcome to Worship and Announcements

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Children's Time

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting coins for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger. *Find that loose change and help feed kids around the world!*

First Reading:

2 Maccabees 10:1-7

¹ Now Maccabeus and his followers, the Lord leading them on, recovered the temple and the city; ² they tore down the altars that had been built in the public square by the foreigners and also destroyed the sacred precincts. ³ They purified the sanctuary and made another altar of sacrifice; then, striking fire out of flint, they offered sacrifices, after a lapse of two years, and they offered incense and lighted lamps and set out the bread of the Presence. ⁴ When they had done this, they fell prostrate and implored the Lord that they might never again fall into such misfortunes but that, if they should ever sin, they might be disciplined by him with forbearance and not be handed over to blasphemous and barbarous nations. ⁵ It happened that on the same day on which the sanctuary had been profaned by the foreigners, the purification of the sanctuary took place, that is, on the twenty-fifth day of the same month, which was Chislev. ⁶ They celebrated it for eight days with rejoicing, in the manner of the Festival of Booths, remembering how not long before, during the Festival of Booths, they had been wandering in the mountains and caves like wild animals. ⁷ Therefore, carrying ivy-wreathed wands and beautiful branches and also palm fronds, they offered hymns of thanksgiving to him who had given success to the purifying of his own holy place.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm:

Psalm 118:19-29

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ **This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²² **The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ **This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ **You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.**

²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

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

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

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

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The holy gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel:**Luke 19:28-40**

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

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ 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. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ 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, ³⁸ saying,

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

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

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon**Pastor Calvin Konop****Hymn of the Day***My Song Is Love Unknown***ELW 343****Apostles' 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 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 God's People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *(A brief silence.)*

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. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring 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.**

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.**

Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering especially *Barb, Paulina, Gene and Barbara, Joan, Christy, Lynn, Bruce and Pastor Bob*. We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. *(A time of silence.)* God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. 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.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

“In Dodona”

Bethlehem Choir

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.**

Great Thanksgiving

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

Words of Institution

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy

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Invitation to Communion

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. All are welcome!

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion.*

Communion Music

Lamb of God

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For the Bread Which You Have Broken

ELW 494

Post Communion Blessing

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.

Blessing

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✚ bless you now and forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn

There in God's Garden

ELW 342

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Karina Roth



Maundy Thursday

April 17 at 7:00 pm Service

Holy Week

Good Friday

April 18 at 7:00 pm

Tenebrae Service



April 20:

8:00 am Sunrise Service,

9:00 am Brunch, and

10:00 Easter Worship



There will NOT be Wednesday Meal or Evening Service this Wed. April 16th.

Reminder for Maundy Thursday: 4 Students will be taking their First Communion

Your prayers are requested for healing: Barb Coe, Pastor Bob Stoskopf, Joan Bieber, Gene & Barbara Erickson, Christy Buetow, Lynn Schulte, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Paulina Backstrom, Shae Lindholm, Rhonda Silence, Rhonda Schulte, Emily Ulhorn, Char Anderson, Les Donek, Betty Jones, Stacey Schulte, Carol Ann, Hank Ferland, and Jack Anderson. *If you have any updates on these prayer requests, or any new requests, please call the office at 218-387-2227.*

This week we lift up these members: *Kris Smith, Kyler & Kamryn; Emily Ulhorn; Steve & Belinda Dockan; Kurt & Phyllis Schierenbeck; and Bob & Mimi Carlson.* May God walk with these friends in their Lenten journey.

The April Mission of the Month is going international - yet has a very local connection. We will be supporting the **Ray of Life** project which supplies solar light kits to families in Ukraine who are living without electricity. This mission was started by Dave Nonnemacher of Two Harbors, (formerly of Grand Marais). His non-profit, *New Horizons Foundation*, will use the funds we raise to purchase components needed for the solar kits. Volunteers will then assemble the kits and prepare them for shipping. **Member Challenge:** We are excited to have Dave come to Bethlehem on **May 20th** to lead an assembly event. The parts for each kit currently cost \$125. We hope our members will respond generously. ***Wouldn't it be great to give this gift to at least twenty families?*** This is a fun activity to participate in!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **Vacation Bible School** will be July 14-18, 2025. 9am to noon for K-5th grade students. \$15/student. Scholarships available. More to come.
- **Senior Quilt Day:** May 1, 2025—lunch with the Quilters and pick out your quilt. On May 11: Senior blessings and quilts during worship

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This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Apr 13	PALM SUNDAY	
	8:40 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	Worship Service with Sunday School
Mon Apr 14	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
Wed Apr 16	12:30 PM	Text Study
Thurs Apr 17	8:00 AM	Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Quilting
	7:00 PM	Maundy Thurs. Worship, with First Communion
Fri Apr 18	7:00 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Sun Apr 20	8:00 AM	Easter Sunrise Service
	9:00 AM	Easter Brunch
	10:00 AM	Traditional Easter Worship service

On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code or through automatic transfer.



Traveler Cards and Local Grocery Cards are available from Bethlehem to members of the community that need help. Please contact the office.

Coffee An': *Have you taken a turn serving for our fellowship time on Sundays?* Please sign up to bring some treats to share.

Wednesday Text Study: Join us at 12:30 pm on Wednesdays for a study of the scripture lessons. Zoom link is available.

Men's Bible Study: Every Thursday morning, beginning at 8:00 to 9:15 am. Contact Mike Chmelik for information, 218-387-1790. Zoom link is available.

Quilters are seeking more helpers! Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. No experience necessary. You are invited to the fun!