



OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRAND PRAIRIE

You are welcome here!
**We are disciples of Jesus, growing
in Faith, Hope, and Love.**

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Worship Times

Sunday 10:15 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm



Pastor

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday

Gathering

✘ INTRODUCTION

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.

✘ OPENING

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, the eleventh chapter.

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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The members of the congregation raise their branches.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through your Son Jesus Christ. When he entered Jerusalem in triumph he was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along the 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.

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of Christ. Amen.

*The congregation now proceeds, waving their palms and following the minister.
During the procession there will be a repeated dialogue:*

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

C Hosanna in the highest.

As the procession completes entry into the sanctuary, all shall remain standing for the processional hymn.

✠ PROCESSIONAL HYMN – All Glory, Laud, and Honor (ELW #344)

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

2 The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

3 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. *Refrain*

4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

5 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

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

C Hosanna in the highest.

✘ PRAYER OF THE DAY

A 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.

C **Amen.**

Word

✘ FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 50:4-9a

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 awakens — awakens 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. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✘ RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

¹⁰**For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;**

my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors,

an object of dread to my acquaintances;

those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹²**I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;**

I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³For I hear the whispering of many — terror all around! —

as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But I trust in you, O LORD;**

I say, "You are my God."

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.**

✠ **SECOND LESSON – Philippians 2:5-11**

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the Gospel.

✠ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – (Setting 4, p. 151)**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

✠ **GOSPEL – Mark 14:1 – 15:27**

P The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Gospel of Mark.

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

The congregation may be seated for the reading of the Passion.

✠ **HOMILY**

✘ **HYMN OF THE DAY – My Song Is Love Unknown (ELW #343)**

- 1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes we strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
and for his death we thirst and cry.
- 6 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

✘ **APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 105)**

P With the whole Church, let us 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.

A brief silence.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

A Give energy and joy to our pastor, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P 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 the Lord be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

✘ OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, here and around the world. After the offering is gathered, the gifts are brought forward. **Please stand, as you are able.***

✘ OFFERING PRAYER

A 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.**

Meal

✘ GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

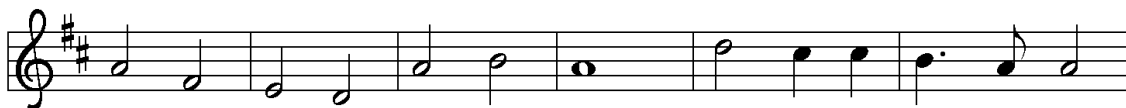
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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:

✘ **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - (ELW Setting 4, p. 153)**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

✘ **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe... With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen.

✘ LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **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

P Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

✘ LAMB OF GOD (ELW Setting 4, p. 154)



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.

✘ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

✘ COMMUNION HYMN – This Is Christ's Body (ACS #967)

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✘ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A 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.

✘ BLESSING

A 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.

C Amen.

✘ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✘ SENDING HYMN – Change My Heart, O God (ELW #801)

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✘ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share your bread.

C Thanks be to God.

Services and activities during this Holy Week:

3/27 - No Wednesday evening service

3/28 - Thursday, 7 pm – Maundy Thursday

3/29 - Friday, 7 pm – Good Friday

3/31 - Easter Sunrise - 8 am

Easter Sunday Service – 10:15 am

⌘ **SERVING TODAY**

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal
Music Director:	John Zacharias
Altar:	Leah Adix
Assisting Minister:	Kris Davies
Lay Reader:	Jeff Adix
Communion Cup Holder:	Julie Bothun
Usher:	Adix Family
Videographer:	Gene Davies

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