

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13, 2025

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY

"A family of faith, rooted in Word and Sacrament proclaiming the redeeming love of Jesus Christ through worship, nurture, and service."

INTRODUCTION

Today is the final Sunday in the season of Lent, a forty-day time of reflection, prayer, and preparation for Easter. This season, our worship focuses on what we need, what our neighbors need, and how God meets us. In the gospel reading, Jesus asks his followers to borrow a colt for him to ride, and we reflect on the times when Jesus needs our help.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

During the prelude, worshipers participating in the outdoor portion of the Procession with Palms are invited to gather outside in the parking lot. They will walk around the church building on the sidewalk and enter the sanctuary by walking up the steps and in the front door. Worshipers participating in the indoor portion are invited to remain seated, preparing to wave their palms to welcome the arriving procession.

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

These words are used with both the indoor and outdoor processions.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, and the people asked a question.

Who is this?

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, the crowds had an answer.

This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, he rode a humble colt, not a royal horse.

Look, your king is coming to you.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, the crowds called out to God.

Hosanna! Save us!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

The procession begins. People indoors hold their palms, waiting to welcome the procession and listening as it passes the sanctuary, arriving at the front doors. People outdoors wave their palms and sing, following the drum to the front door.

When the procession enters the sanctuary singing, the indoor participants join the song, waving their palms. Procession participants return to their chosen seats.

When the procession has arrived and been seated, the palms are blessed.

BLESSING OF PALMS: BLESSED IS THE ONE

Blessed is the One
who comes to us
by the way of love
poured out with abandon.

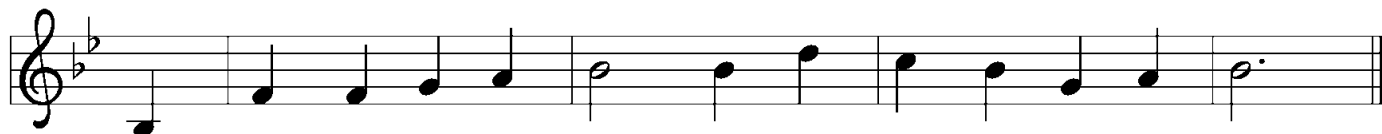
Blessed is the One
who walks toward us
by the way of grace
that holds us fast.

Blessed is the One
who calls us to follow
in the way of blessing,
in the path of joy.

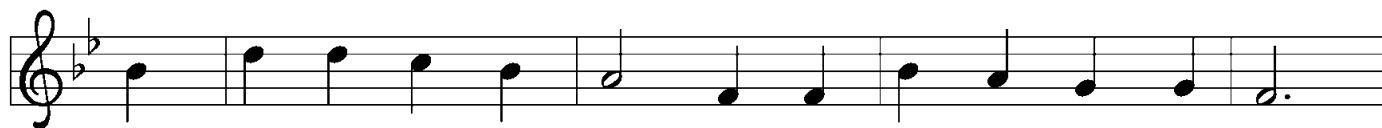
Holy God, bless these palms and the people who carry them. Make them a sign of welcome and celebration. Make us your chosen people: the ones who go ahead of you, preparing the way; the ones who wait for you to arrive, praying for your grace. We pray in the humble name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Refrain

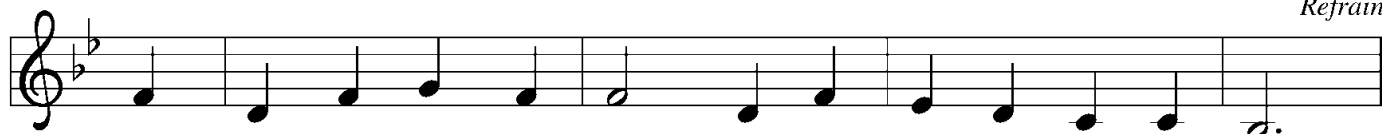
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



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,

Refrain

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.

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

Let us pray.

Holy Jesus, you sent your disciples to ask for a colt with no reason other than that you needed it. Increase in us the willingness to go where you send us, even when we do not understand the needs you call us to answer. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me

a trained tongue,

that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.

Morning by morning God 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;

⁸ the one who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand in court together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

⁹It is the Lord God who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment;

the moth will eat them up.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16

Be 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.

¹¹ I 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.

¹³ For 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.”

¹⁵ My times are | in your hand;

deliver me from the hand of my enemies and | persecutors.

¹⁶ **Let your face shine up- | on your servant;**

save me in your | steadfast love.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly

and gave him the name

that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to 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 Creator.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL: Luke 19:28b-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸[Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "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. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷Now as he was 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, ³⁸saying,

"Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!"

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

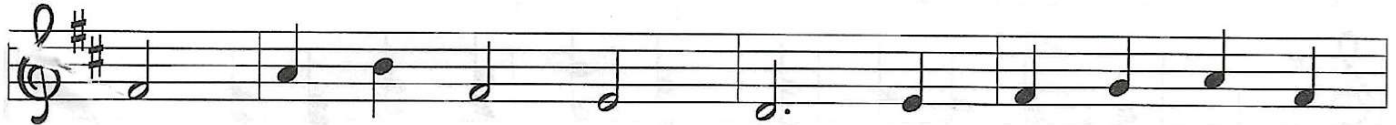
This is the good news of the Gospel.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Please stand as you are comfortable.

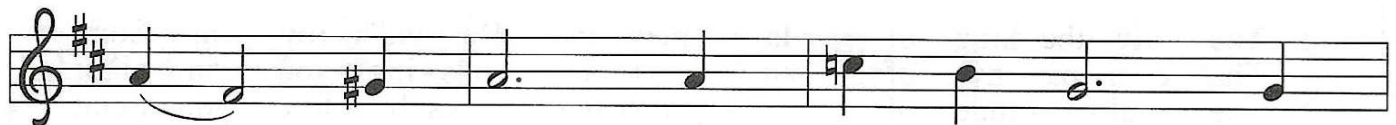
We sing verses 1,2,3, and 6.



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es



me, love to the love - less shown that they might
 stow; the world that was his own would not its
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
 Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
 to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!
 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

**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.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 will 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. We pray especially for... *(specific prayer requests may be named here)*
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.

And also with you.

We share a sign of peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Offering plates are located by the entrances to the sanctuary. Your gifts support St. Mark, its mission, and its partnerships with local, statewide, and national partners.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

God, you gave us what we needed to love you today.

**Now we offer you a portion of these gifts,
a harvest of the love you planted.**

God, we have supplied the gifts, and you have supplied the purpose.

Bless our gifts and use them in your service. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is not only right, but even needful
 for us to thank you, God,
 for the cosmos overflows with your goodness.
 You open your hand to satisfy the needs
 of everything that you have made,
 and all of creation sings its thankful praise.
 And so we join the echoing song:

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

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

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, O God,
 brimming with your extravagant love.
 In the beginning you created,
 not because you needed to
 but because it delighted you:
**you made the textures of feathers and fur,
 the fragrance of pine and saltwater,
 glinting minerals and sparkling stars,
 humankind in gorgeous diversity.**

You became like us in Jesus Christ,
whose life magnified the abundance of your grace
and the lavishness of your love.

**He saw the richness of a widow's pennies
and the surpassing fineness of a lily's petals
and the towering greatness of a mustard seed
and fed thousands with five loaves and two fish.**

On the night of his arrest,
he gathered his friends for a simple meal
and set a feast of love.
He took bread, 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.*

And so we remember:



Christ has died. Christ is ris'n. Christ will come a - gain.

Extravagant God, pour out your Spirit on us
and on this bread and cup.

Let the fragrance of your love fill this house.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Let it fill our noses with the sweetness of grapes
and the earthiness of grain.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Let it fill our hearts as lavish compassion
for the little, the lost, and the least.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Let this bread and cup magnify your prodigal love,
mirroring the heavenly feast that has no end.
Bring us at last to the infinite table
where you have gathered all your holy ones
in the new creation where every tear is wiped away,
and every need has been met in you.
All honor and glory is yours, O God,
who is both Giver and Gift,
with the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*At St. Mark, we share communion with wheat and gluten-free wafers and with red wine and red grape juice.
Everyone is welcome to receive communion, regardless of age, religious background, or life experience.*

Please be seated.

COMMUNION SONG**JESUS, LAMB OF GOD**

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN**FOR THE BREAD WHICH YOU HAVE BROKEN****ELW 494**

- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat - ed at the heav'n - ly board,
- 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Now may God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
who + walks the path to the cross,
who passes into our very hearts,
bless you and sustain you.
Today God has answered your need,
and now the Spirit sends you out
to answer the world's need. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

RIDE ON, RIDE ON IN MAJESTY

ELW 346



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring
pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you to today's worship leaders!

Lector: Jeff Clair

Communion Assistant: Terri Clair

Ushers: Haig Kasabach and Leon Boyer

Livestream Operator: Judy Oiler

Altar Guild: Lisa Fritzingler and Michaela Arzt

Pastor: Rev. Linnéa Clark

Church Administrator: Robin Harris

Minister of Music: John Kling

Ministers: People of St. Mark

Worship with Us

We gather for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am (a full-length, more formal service) and on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (a shorter, more informal service). During Lent, our Wednesday evenings begin with a simple supper of soup and bread at 5:45 pm, and our service uses Holden Evening Prayer.

We host Peace of Mindfulness, a mindfulness meditation class, on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Beginners and advanced practitioners alike are welcome.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Dinner Church: April 17, 6:00 pm

Good Friday Ecumenical Worship: April 18, 12:00 pm at Pearson Memorial UMC

Good Friday Tenebrae: April 18, 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday: April 20, 9:30 am

Serve with Us

We welcome volunteers every Sunday after worship to help with Lunches with Love, which prepares lunches for clients of HomeFront. Recently, we shared our 16,000th lunch! Contact Karen Breninghouse (kbreninghouse@gmail.com) for more information.

Contact Us

You can reach our office at admin@stmarkhamilton.org and at (609) 585-7087.

You can reach Pastor Linnéa Clark directly at pastor@stmarkhamilton.org or at (215) 620-4977 in case of emergency.

You can also find us online at stmarkhamilton.org and at facebook.com/stmarkhamilton.

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