

# Messiah Lutheran Church

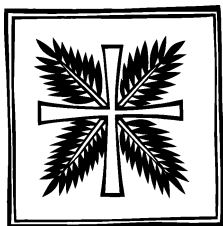
GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Sunday of the Passion

March 24, 2024



**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**

*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.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDES**

*Sing Hosanna in the Highest*.....**Joseph M. Martin**  
*The Palms* ..... **J. Faure**

*Please stand and face the rear of the church.*

**PROCESSION WITH PALMS**

- P:** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C:** **Hosanna to the Son of David.**
- P:** The Lord be with you.
- C:** **And also with you.**
- P:** Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C:** **Amen**

**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11**

*Jesus enters Jerusalem*

- P:** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the eleventh chapter.
- C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] 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.

**P**: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

**P**: The Lord be with you.

**C**: And also with you.

**P**: We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path. We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**: Amen

**P**: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C**: Hosanna in the highest.

**PROCESSION TO RECEIVE PALMS**

*Congregation follows the choir to receive their palms.*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor.....LBW 108*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY****P:** Let us pray.

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.*Sit***WORD****FIRST READING: Philippians 2:5-11***Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death.**Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.***A:** A Reading from Philippians:<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.

**A:** The word of the Lord.**C:** Thanks be to God.

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD**

**P:** The Passion of our Lord according to Saint Mark.

*Turn to the Passion Reading contained in a separate booklet.*

*The congregation reads in unison the part of the people which is in bold type and is preceded by a stylized cross.*

**P:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***My Song is Love Unknown, st. 1,2 and 7 .....LBW 94***

*Sit*

***RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP***

**PRESENTATION**

**P:** Carola Ann Storrs wishes to make public affirmation of her baptism and to be received into the membership of our congregation.

**P:** Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for our sister in Christ, Carola, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called her to yourself, enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished her in the community of faith. Uphold her in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**C:** **Amen.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**P:** I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

**P:** Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**R:** I renounce them.

**P:** Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**R:** I renounce them.

**P:** Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**R:** I renounce them.

*The congregation stands to share the confession of our faith:*

**P:** Do you believe in God the Father?

**C:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**P:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C:** I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**P:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C:** 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.

### **AFFIRMATION BEFORE THE CHURCH**

**P:** You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**R:** I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

*To the congregation:*

**P:** People of God, do you promise to support our sister, Carola, in the faith and to pray for her in her life in Christ?

**C:** We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

**P:** Let us pray.

We give thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. For the sake of Jesus, our Lord, stir up in Carola the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her in her serving, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life.

**C:** Amen.

**C:** All of us of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church welcome you into our family in Christ. We celebrate with you our life together in baptism. Together we will thank and praise God for this life in Christ and for our mission of proclaiming the Good News of Christ to all the world.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*A brief silence is held after the introduction.*

**P:** 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.

*After each petition:*

**P:** Hear us, O God.

**C:** Your mercy is great.

*The prayers conclude:*

**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 Christ be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

*The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.  
Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.*

*Sit*

***MEAL***

**OFFERING**

*The Offering is received as the Lord’s table is prepared.*

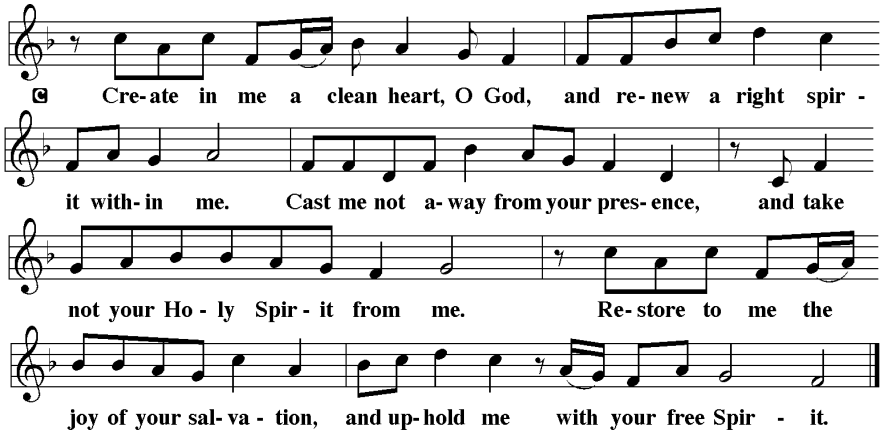
**ANTHEM**

***Pie Jesu.....Andrew Lloyd Webber***

*Duet: Candy Watkins, and Bob Schweppenheiser*



Stand

**OFFERTORY***As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*


**C** 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 to me the  
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**OFFERING PRAYER****A:** Let us pray:**C:** 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.

Amen.

**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.



**PREFACE**

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**[P]:** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.  
 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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!

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**C** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
 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.

Sit

**COMMUNION**

*All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:*

**The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
 The communicant may say: Amen**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

***Christ, the Life of All the Living* ..... LBW 479**

Stand

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray:

**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

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

**P:** 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

**SENDING HYMN**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*..... LBW 107

**DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

**SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

**Ushers:** Fred Harbaugh, Susan Christ, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan,  
Diana Rooker; **Lay Assistant:** Dave Bausinger

**Communion Assistant:** Pam Eveleth

**Acolyte/Crucifer:** Jonathan Hess

**Altar Guild:** Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser

**Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Don and Mary Ellen Rosenbaum

**Flower Delivery:** Paul Weaver

**IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and wishing the congregation a blessed Easter, from Sylvia.

**The Palms** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert E. Hassler by his wife, Jane.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to Messiah Church!** It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

**This morning in worship Carola Ann Storrs** will be received into membership and reaffirm her baptism. Please welcome Carola into our membership and keep her in your prayers.

**The Lenten self-denial folders** are due today. You may place them in the offering plate or bring in to the church office. Thank you!

**Messiah Lutheran Preschool** is now accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year. Registration forms are also available in the church office. *Since space is limited early registration is encouraged. Thank you*

**Sewing is underway for our "School Kits for Lutheran World Relief" project.** It's time to get sewing so that they are ready in time for the older class of kids to add the cords during Bible School week. Fabric pieces along with instructions on how to sew the backpacks - are now available at the church office or in the narthex, and new colors will be coming soon! ***And ... for those of you who do not sew but would like to help, we have plenty of jobs for you, too!*** Call Sally Congdon at 570-547-6193 or Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802 for more information.

**Lutheran World Relief School Kits "Sew-A-Sack" Event,** will be **Wednesday, April 3, 9 a.m.-???** You may still sew at home, but we thought it would be fun to host a "sew-a-thon" during which we will enjoy a morning of fellowship with one another as we work together to sew the backpacks needed for the school kits. ***Can't sew, or don't have a machine? No problem!*** We can put you to work marking fabric, cutting, pinning, and ironing hems (it's easy and we'll show you how). At noon, we will share conversation over a light lunch. We will need the use of some sewing tools if you've any to share (or to bring for your own use). A sign-up sheet has been placed in the narthex. If you can attend, please sign up and indicate whether or not you will join us for lunch along with which items you can bring.

*Join us for a fun time ... we guarantee "we will keep you in stitches!"*

**Call Sally Congdon at 570-547-6193 or Kathy Wither at 570-651-2802 for more information.**

**There will be no Sunday School on Easter;** there will be a Children's Sermon during the service. Following the service there will be an Easter Egg Hunt held in Shaheen Hall. All children are invited to attend. Please bring a basket with you. Happy Hunting!

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING**  
**JARED GIST, ORGANIST**

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702  
(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

## **The Heart of the Story**

Martin Luther called the Psalms a “little Bible.” He wrote that all the rest of the Holy Scriptures could be found in them. Luther went so far as to suggest that in the Psalms the church can glimpse the death and resurrection of Christ. In these ancient songs and prayers of the Hebrew people, every human emotion is laid bare: joy and contentment, anger and sorrow, hope and despair. The Psalms give voice to the wide spectrum of experiences that mark our human lives. This is their power—they speak the heart’s language, turbulent as our hearts may sometimes be.

In a similar way, Holy Week places us at the center of the whole story of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. From the “hosannas” of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the seeming abandonment of the cross, emotions run high this week as the story of Christ’s passion reaches into the depths of our human experience. The palm and passion stories are themselves a “little Bible” of salvation for the church within the wider story of God’s saving love for all.

As we gather to hear the story of Christ’s passion anew, the words and rituals of the church’s worship life invite us to feel our way into this story from the inside out. We hear the shouts of blessing and come to the Passover in quiet hope. We follow to Gethsemane and to the cross, with mixed emotions. What does betrayal feel like in our bodies? What about amazement? Fear? How have we experienced ridicule or shame? How have we ourselves dismissed or derided others?

The palm and passion stories offer us a chance to contemplate Christ’s sufferings and meditate on our salvation—to come side by side with Christ’s passion and so to know and access our own. We are invited to honestly glimpse the workings of our own hearts. Nothing is off limits to God’s grace. No human experience is untouched by the story of God’s redemptive love.

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