

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Palm Sunday ~ April 2, 2023  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer Concerns**

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessings of the Palms Branches and Crosses**

L: O Lord, God Almighty, bless these palm branches and palm crosses and the people who wear and carry them, as they praise of you and glorify your name. As we trace the journey of Jesus into Jerusalem, and ultimately the cross and empty tomb, remind us that through these holy acts, you have opened the door for us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

**Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup>“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” <sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

<sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

**All: “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

A: <sup>10</sup>When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.” - Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

## **Process into the Sanctuary**

**Gathering Hymn - ELW #344 All Glory Laud and Honor vs 1-4**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8deajl\\_RLU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8deajl_RLU)

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, +One God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C: Amen**

L: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

L: Holy God,

**All: We confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news: God so love the world that God gave His only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for us! God embraces us with divine mercy, +forgives us in Christ’s name, and revives us in the Spirit’s power.

**C: Amen.**

## Greeting

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

**Hymn of Praise – ELW #349 Ah, Holy Jesus vs 1 & 2**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhgQLtxymkk>

## Prayer of the Day

A: O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world.

**C: Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection,**

A: through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

## The Word

**First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

<sup>4</sup>The 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. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>The 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; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It 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

<sup>9</sup>Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

**<sup>10</sup>For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.**

<sup>11</sup>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.

**<sup>12</sup>I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.**

<sup>13</sup>For I hear the whispering of many terror all around! as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

**<sup>14</sup>But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.”**

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

**<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.**

## Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

<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.

**The Word of the Lord.** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

\*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." <sup>12</sup>But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" <sup>14</sup>But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. <sup>15</sup>Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" <sup>18</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup>While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." <sup>20</sup>Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup>The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup>Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>24</sup>So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup>Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup>So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. <sup>27</sup>Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup>They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup>and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup>They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. <sup>32</sup>As they went out, they

came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

<sup>33</sup>And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup>they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup>And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup>then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup>Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." <sup>38</sup>Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup>In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup>"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup>The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. <sup>45</sup>From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

*Please stand for the remainder of the Gospel reading*

<sup>46</sup>And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

<sup>47</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup>At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

<sup>50</sup>Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup>The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup>After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Message

<https://youtu.be/qWU8YuP7tgo>

### Hymn of the Day - ELW #335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Yn8Jl6y4tk>

### Prayers of Intercession

L: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Save the people of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or human rights work. Bring peace to the areas where conflict runs deep. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Save those who cry to you with any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial and stand with those unjustly accused. Be present with the sick, the isolated, those mourning, lonely or fearful. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, deacons, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Offertory Hymn - O Lord, throughout These Forty Days**

**ELW #319 vs 1 & 4**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzqjglKoEpU>

### **Offertory Prayer**

A: Holy and generous host,

**C: you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace**

A: through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

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

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



## Words of Institution

### The 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.

### Communion Distribution

### Communion Music

### Post-Communion Blessing

L: Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you  
and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

### Post-Communion Prayer

A: The meal you have chosen for your feast is a humble meal, O Christ,

**C: even as the animal you rode into Jerusalem was a humble beast of burden.**

A: Accept our humble praise and our joyous shouts of hopeful celebration:

**C: Hosanna to you, the son of David!**

A: We hail you as our King!

**C: Amen.**

## **Benediction**

L: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, and together we may with one voice glorify God, in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN ELW #351 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5ow-J6OeXI>

## **Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**