

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

March 25, 2018



The first and second readings and psalm are the same this Sunday every year: Christ emptying himself of divine power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable to those who struck him and put him to death. With Christ we lament his suffering and all human suffering, but expect God's final vindication. Mark's passion story begins with an unnamed woman anointing his head, perhaps to proclaim him Messiah, and Jesus saying she has anointed him beforehand for burial. Mark's Easter story will begin with women going to anoint Jesus for burial, only to find that he has been raised, God's living Anointed One.

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org



(The congregation gathers outside.)

WELCOME AND CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PROCESSION OF PALMS

Assist: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest.

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PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor: When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he 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. *(Mark 11:1–11)*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen**

PROCESSION

Assist: Let us go forth in peace,

People: **in the name of Christ. Amen**

Pastor: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna in the highest.**

(The procession into the church begins and the acclamation above is repeated at various times.)

HYMN "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

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 AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

*We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."
Baptismal Anniversaries: Garrett Flores (3/28), Leslie Bloss (3/29), Tiffany Ginn (3/30)
(Individuals meet the Pastor at the font for a special blessing in recognition of their anniversary)*

We are seated

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION "*Hosanna! Hosanna!*"

Living Springs Choirs

Music by Cathy Townley



THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK

Narrator: It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

People: Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.

Narrator: While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

People: Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.

Narrator: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

Jesus: Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

Narrator: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

People: Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

Narrator: So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

Jesus: Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.

Narrator: So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

Narrator: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

People: Surely, not I?

Narrator: He said to them,

Jesus: It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Narrator: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

Jesus: Take; this is my body.

Narrator: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

Jesus: This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Narrator: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

Jesus: You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

Narrator: Peter said to him,

Peter: Even though all become deserters, I will not.

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

Narrator: But he said vehemently,

Peter: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Narrator: And all of them said the same.
They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,
Jesus: Sit here while I pray.
Narrator: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them,
Jesus: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.
Narrator: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,
Jesus: Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.
Narrator: He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,
Jesus: Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
Narrator: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

We stand as able

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: 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 & 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.

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

People: 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.

Pastor: Come to the table prepared for you. Taste the overflowing grace of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

We are seated

PALM SUNDAY OFFERING

On Palm Sunday, as we come forward for communion, we place our offerings of thanksgiving and love in the plate located on the center table.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Communion at Living Springs is by **intinction** (bread is dipped into the wine or grape juice). This meal is the Lord's Supper of grace and is open to ALL Christians of any background or denomination. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in **Christ's true presence** in, with, and under the elements. We invite you to have your name tag visible so that the ministers may include **your name** as they offer you the elements. Communion at Living Springs is by **intinction** (bread is dipped into the wine or grape juice). In response to the words, "Body of Christ, given for you. Blood of Christ, shed for you," each worshipper may respond with, "**Amen.**" If you require a **gluten free wafer**, please let your worship assistant know so they can accommodate you. Each chalice contains two compartments: wine is located in the larger compartment, while **alcohol-free grape juice** is located in the smaller compartment for those who require it. **Children** who have not received communion instruction are invited to come forward for a special blessing. Simply fold your hands to indicate you would like to receive the blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

ELW 195

"Jesus Messiah"

- He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing*

*Chorus: Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all*
- His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing (To Chorus)*

*Bridge: All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world (To Chorus)*

*Ending: Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
The Lord of all
The Lord of all*

CCLI Song # 5183443
Chris Tomlin | Daniel Carson | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves
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After all have communed, we stand as able

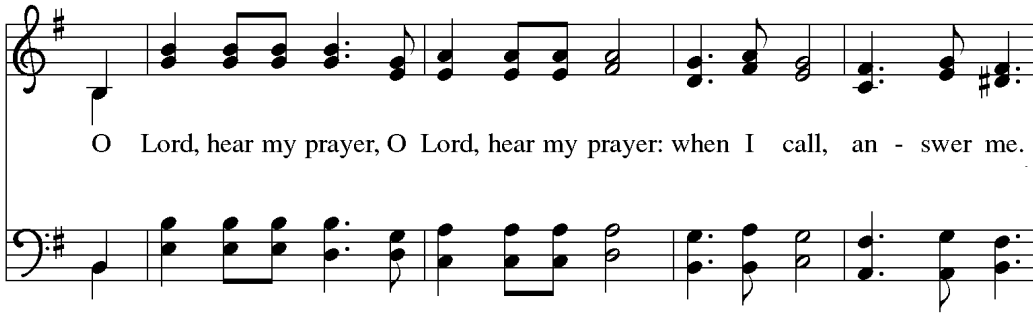
EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

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

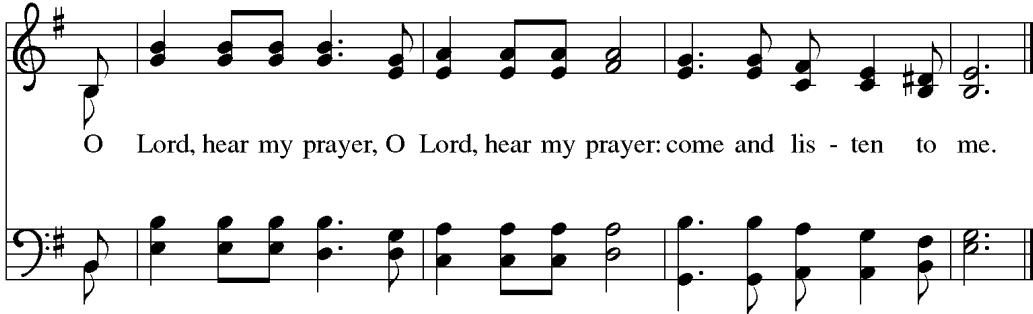
People: Amen

At the sounding of the chime, we sing.

CALL TO PRAYER



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé community, adapt.; Music: Hear My Prayer, Jacques Berthier © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.

We are seated

SILENT PRAYER

During the time of silent prayer, you are invited to come place a prayer slip in the prayer basket (at the center of the praying congregation). As the chime sounds again, the prayer basket is taken to the prayer station beneath the Lenten cross (formed from wood of the Cross-Oak that once stood at LS entrance). We then continue with the spoken prayers.

We kneel as able

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Pastor: We pray for this assembly gathered in prayer. We lift up the petitions of prayer placed at the cross of your Son this day, as well as all Lenten Prayer Partners. Receive our prayers with your power and love. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for the church. Bless all who call upon your name. Unite your church in bearing witness to the gospel. Pour your love into our hearts, and inspire us to pour out our lives in service to your world. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for the world. For palm trees and figs. For trees with leafy branches. For olive groves and gardens. For mountains and hillsides, valleys and canyons. For places affected by rising sea levels or depleted water sources. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for the nations. For peace among all, especially those who honor Jerusalem as holy ground. For all who hold positions of authority and power. For all who suffer oppression, and for those who serve in the armed forces. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for those in need. For those who have suffered betrayal. For those who live in poverty. For those who have no voice or power. For the forsaken and forgotten. For those who are in crisis, for those who are ill, and for those who are grieving, especially... *the family of Janet Bate; Margarete Zacour; Stephanie Joyner; Bunie Talbert; Betty Malloy; Inez Anderson; Vickie Meyers; Josh Rose; Deborah Dickey; Anne O'Brian; Ted/Debbie Duncan; Fr. Ed Kelly; Arlyn Kjosa; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud....* God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: With thanksgiving, we remember all who have been obedient to your will and all who have died in faith. Bring us with them into your glory, to dwell with you in life eternal. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: Amen.

We are seated for continuation of the Passion Reading

+ THE PASSION OF OUR LORD +

Narrator: And once more Jesus came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

Jesus: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Narrator: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.

Narrator: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

Judas: Rabbi!

Narrator: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.

Narrator: All of them deserted him and fled.

Narrator: A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked. They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

People: We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'

Narrator: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

High Priest: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Narrator: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

High Priest: Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'

Narrator: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest: "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

Narrator: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, Prophecy! The guards also took him over and beat him. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

Servant Girl: You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

Narrator: But he denied it, saying,

Peter: I do not know or understand what you are talking about.

Narrator: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

Servant Girl: This man is one of them.

Narrator: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

People: Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.

Narrator: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter: I do not know this man you are talking about.

Narrator: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept. As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Narrator: He answered him,

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

Pilate: Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.

Narrator: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

Pilate: Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

Narrator: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

Pilate: Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

Narrator: They shouted back,

People: Crucify him!

Narrator: Pilate asked them,

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

People: Crucify him!

Narrator: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

People: Hail, King of the Jews!

Narrator: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

HYMN (*seated*)

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" vs. 1, 2, & 4

ELW 351

Narrator: They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

People: Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!

Narrator: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

People: He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.

Narrator: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Narrator: which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

People: Listen, he is calling for Elijah.

Narrator: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Bystander: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

Narrator: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

(We STAND in silence. After the sounding of 7 chimes, the passion continues:)

Narrator: And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

Centurion: Truly this man was God's Son!

Narrator: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

+ CONFESSION OF FAITH - APOSTLES' CREED +

People: 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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN

"Were You There"

(While we sing, we turn and face the processional cross as it is carried out the center aisle)



Solo - 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Men - 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Women - 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Choir - 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
All - 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Refrain



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

WE DEPART IN SILENCE

(Holy Week worship continues this evening at 6:00 with the Service of Healing and Blessing)

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY:

Total Commitment

This week we will watch Jesus' triumphal procession into Jerusalem give way to his march of suffering out of Jerusalem to Golgotha. We will listen as the voices that once shout "hosanna" later cry "crucify." In some places worshipers will give voice to both cries through their participation in scripture readings or song.

Such scripting suggests a central truth about the message of Holy Week—that despite all our posturing as Christians and disciples of Christ, we remain deeply ambivalent about this Jesus of Nazareth. In our lives, there are times when we participate in both the crowds that praise Jesus and the crowds that look on him with suspicion and contempt.

Yet, more important than our own fickleness in the story of Jesus' procession, arrest, and death is Christ's unwavering faithfulness toward us. While our conviction changes, Jesus' does not. While our interest fades, Christ's investment in us remains total. His resolved march into Jerusalem continues toward Golgotha even as the crowds disperse and disciples run away. When the cheers of the crowd go silent and then turn sour, Jesus' words of blessing and forgiveness carry on.

The good news today and every day is that God's gracious love is poured out through Christ apart from any accounting of which crowd we stand in or which word is coming from our lips. When we think about it, we really are gathered together not through our commitment to Christ but through Christ's commitment to us. That promise is made to us in baptism, where God marks us forever as God's own. And it is with this promise that we walk through the moments of this week, knowing that in all things Christ has chosen to stand by us.

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Lent Seasonal Emphasis

Going a little farther, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."
- Matthew 26:39

THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

ASSISTING MINISTER

815 - John Imbert
1045 - Jan Berger

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

815 - Karen Kranz
Nowell Ramsey
1045 - Steve Bloss
Pat Bartucca

USHERS

815 - Sue & Mike Loveless
1045 - Walker Flores,
Randy Masad, Mike Davidson,
Wes Levitt

GREETER - Inside

815 - Nancy Schwind
1045 - Gail Buchanan

GREETER - Outside

815 - Roger Schwind
1045 - Steve Bloss

ACOLYTE

815 - Bill Franck
1045 - Steve Bloss

CRUCIFER

815 - Nancy Schwind
1045 - Karlene Stuart

TORCHBEARERS

1045 - Laura Stuart
Austin Padgett

NAME TAGS

815 - Roger Schwind
1045 - Alice Renaud

MUGGER

Karen Kranz

REFRESHMENTS

Judy Lawrence

ALTAR GUILD

Jan Berger

COUNTERS

Wendy McKenzie
Karlene Stuart
Sue Hyman

COUNCIL DISCIPLE

815 - Mike Grimmer
1045 - Mike Davidson

The Passion of Our Lord - Readers

8:15

Narrator: Ken Flynn
Jesus: John Imbert
Peter: Sandra Dixon
Judas: Todd Gunvalson
Servant Girl: Barb Imbert
High Priest: Jerry Mancuso
Pilate: Midge Gunvalson
Bystander: Nowell Ramsey
Centurion: Jim Zieche

10:45

Narrator: Steve Padgett
Jesus: Adam Woodruff
Peter: Mike Davidson
Judas: Bob Turnmire
Servant Girl: Jan Berger
High Priest: Leslie Bloss
Pilate: Ed Brennan
Bystander: Cathy Lowman
Centurion: Bob Gabbard



LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ministry Staff:

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Prayer Ministry prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP THIS DAY!

May the Spirit speak to your heart the message of God's redeeming love for everyone, through the grace shown to the world in Jesus. We gather as a community of disciples. Our center is Jesus Christ, and we are here to know and share the blessing of his forgiving, healing hand.

WELCOME GUESTS! – We are especially blessed by your presence today and look forward to worshipping with you again. Please take time to fill out the blue slip in your bulletin and/or sign the welcome book in the narthex. New members are always welcome into our congregation. To learn more about becoming part of Christ's family of faith here at Living Springs, please contact the office (736-0661) or Pastor Eric (917-2749).

BULLETIN BLUE SLIPS - may be completed and placed in the offering plate for prayer requests, guest information, address/phone updates, and a record of communing. Members, please complete at least one blue slip during 2018 to ensure we have a record of your communing.

SEASONAL NAME TAG – In order to show hospitality, we ask everyone to stop by the table under the portico and complete a name tag with our seasonal scripture verse. The tags allow everyone to use names as we share the Peace - and allow communion ministers to speak your name (*please make sure your name is visible when you come to the altar rail*).

RESTROOMS – are located in the Administration Building on both levels. Greeters/ushers will be happy to show you the way. Main level restrooms are equipped with diaper changing stations.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS - are now available, please see an usher or greeter.

HEARING ASSISTANCE – The ushers have headsets which will amplify the sound for you. Please return to an usher or leave in the pew at the conclusion of the service.

GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS & ALCOHOL-FREE GRAPE JUICE– are available during communion.

NURSERY – is available for infants-3 years old during the 10:45 Worship Service; located downstairs in the preschool in the Education Building. Greeters/Ushers will be happy to assist you.

CHILD SAFETY – is very important to us, so we ask at least 1 adult to accompany your child if he/she leaves the Sanctuary during worship. Please do not allow children to play on the playground without parental supervision.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME – is held each week following the 8:15 service and prior to the 10:45 service, inside the education building.

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY – As a community of disciples, we pray for one another and others - not just in times of illness, but also for praise, thanksgiving, and forgiveness. If you have a prayer request, fill out the bulletin blue sheet and place in the offering plate (or call/email the office).

G.I.F.T. Zone Opportunity For Parents & Young Children

Our "kid-friendly" worship experience is located in the left transept of the sanctuary. For families who wish to take advantage of the G.I.F.T. Zone, there is child-friendly furniture, plus adult chairs. Feel free to sit in the special area throughout the service with your child - or come to the area during the message time. During this middle section of the service, Deacon Lexanne Graves will be in the area to guide parents and children through activities to help our youngest worshipers follow the service. This is an awesome way to keep children engaged in worship with the whole congregation - and learn the liturgy until they are able to worship in the pews for the entire service. We offer the G.I.F.T. Zone so that parents may share the worship experience with their children in a meaningful, stress-free way. At the 10:45 service, our nursery is also available for ages 0 - 3 (for those yet unable to benefit from the G.I.F.T. Zone activities.)

