

**Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!**

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*Rooted in Faith \* Growing in Spirit \* Reaching Out to Those in Need*  
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**March 25, 2018 Sunday of the Palms/Passion Sunday 8:30 am**

*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.*

**PRELUDE “Palm Sunday Processional” Jan Bender**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PROCESSION OF THE PALMS**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!  
See, your king comes to you; righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
(Zechariah 9:9)

As the people spread their coats and palm branches on the ground to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, so we welcome him into our lives this morning. King of Glory, King of Peace, Servant King, reign in our hearts and live this day and all days, that we might praise your holy name.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

**ALL: Hosanna in the highest.**

**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL Mark 11:1-11 Pew Bible NT pg. 48**

*(please stand for our opening hymn)*

**OPENING HYMN “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” ELW #344**  
*(wave your palm during the chorus)*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Lord Jesus, you rode into Jerusalem not as a conquering king but in humility, the Servant King, ready to complete the task for which you had walked this world. Forgive us those times when we think too highly of ourselves and remind us always that you ask from us lives dedicated to service, to you and to our neighbors, wherever and whoever they might be. Enable us to take off our cloaks of self-righteousness and lay them down at your feet.

**C: ‘Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord” – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.’ Thank you, Lord Jesus.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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, he who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN** *(please be seated)*

**SPECIAL MUSIC “That Old Rugged Cross” Don Besig\Nancy Price**  
**Zion Adult Choir**  
**Pianist: Stephanie Hawkinson ~ Flute – Sue Gates**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING Philippians 2:5–11 Pew Bible NT pg. 210**  
*Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.*

**GOSPEL HYMN “Jesus I Will Ponder Now” ELW #345**  
*(you may remain seated for the choral Gospel reading)*

**GOSPEL READING Mark 14:1—15:47 Pew Bible NT pg. 52**  
*The passion story in Mark’s gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”**      **ELW #337**

**APOSTLES’ CREED** *(please stand)*

**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)*

**OFFERING**

*The children are welcome to come forward and place their offerings in the “For Children Everywhere” box.*

**OFFERING HYMN**      **“There In God’s Garden”**      **ELW #342**

**OFFERING PRAYER** *(please stand)*

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**      Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**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.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

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.  
**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**      **“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”**      **ELW #351**

**POSTLUDE**      **“There In God’s Garden”**      **David Cherwien**

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

*Jesus enters Jerusalem*

<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.

## **FIRST READING**

**Philippians 2:5–1**

*Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.*

<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.

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence*

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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, and for those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. For those preparing for baptism or confirmation. For musicians, altar guilds, ushers, and all who lead us in worship. For those who serve our community through food pantries, homeless shelters, and clothing banks. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**