



Palm Sunday

First Lutheran Church

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Le Sueur, MN 56058

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UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW #264
(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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.

KYRIE

ELW page 203

THE PRAYERS

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.
A brief silence.

Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Establish peace and justice among the nations of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give energy and joy to our pastor/s, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life. We give thanks for the courage of Oscar Romero, bishop and martyr, whom we commemorate today.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" ELW #808
(Vs. 1 & 4)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

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.

WORD

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

READING: Matthew 3:1-6, 11, 13-17

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is

coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

John The Baptist

HYMN

***"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* ELW #807
(Vs. 1 & 3)**

READING: Mark 8:31-33

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Simon Peter

FIRST CHOIR

***"Have Thy Own Way Lord"*
Arr. Pollard & Stebbins**

READING: John 2:13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for

forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Temple Cleansing

HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" ELW #504
(Vs. 2 & 3)

READING: John 3:1-16

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Nicodemus

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Lord, I Need You"
Arr. Maher
Jennifer & Whitney Weick

READING: John 12:20-36

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

God's Voice In The Thunder

FIRST CHOIR

"Prepare the Way"
Arr. Besig

READING: Matthew 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"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."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey
and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd
spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread
them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were
shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is
this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in
Galilee."

Palm Sunday

FIRST CHOIR

"How Great Is Our God"
Arr. Tomlin, Reeves, Cash

READING: Luke 22:54-62

⁵⁴Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.
But Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵When they had kindled a fire in the middle
of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶Then a servant-
girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with
him." ⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸A little later
someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man,
I am not!" ⁵⁹Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man
also was with him; for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what
you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock
crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word
of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny
me three times." ⁶²And he went out and wept bitterly.

Peter's Denial

FIRST CHOIR

"Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone"
Arr. Tomlin, Giglio

READING: Psalm 118:1, 7, 8, 9, 14, 21, 24-49

L: ¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

C: ⁷**The LORD is on my side to help me;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.**

L: ⁸It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put confidence in mortals.

C: ⁹**It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put confidence in princes.**

L: ¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

C: ²¹**I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

L: ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

C: ²⁵**Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!**

L: ²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

C: ²⁷**The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.**

L: ²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

C: ²⁹**O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

REFLECTION: “Nobody But Jesus”

SENDING

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

BLESSING

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.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Lord I Lift Your Name on High" ELW #857

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

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Expires 12/25/2024

Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2024

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
3-17-24	\$13,017	\$4,548
YTD	\$47,123	\$54,574

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you

Scripture Readers: Bonnie Keech, Marci Gresien, Rachel Wagner

Story Tellers: Dave Nelson, John Miller, Edrie Barton, Dave Johnson, Cathy Fullerton, Rita Patrias, Pastor Sam

First Choir Members

Special Music: Jennifer & Whitney Weick

March Ministry Focus: Le Sueur Food Shelf.

Reminder to all high school seniors that First Lutheran Scholarship applications are mailed out this month. All seniors are encouraged to apply. Feel free to contact Melissa Schwartz at 952-843-8792 or church office with questions.



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday

6:30pm—@ First Lutheran
with Holy Communion

Good Friday

7:00pm—United Methodist Church

Easter Sunday

9:00am
with Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

March 24, 2024

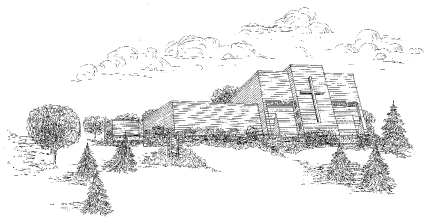
Organist/Pianist: Virginia Miller
First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
Acolytes: Isaac Fletcher
Reader: Palm Sunday Readers
Usher: Bob & Joan Reasoner
Greeters:
Council Member: Megan Schwarz
Fellowship: Youth Gathering Group
Projection: Tech Team
Audio: Tech Team
Videographer: Becky Pollack
Offering Counters: Randy Baum
Joan May
Altar Guild: Theresa Sullivan
Rita Patrias

March 28, 2024—Maundy Thursday

Organist/Pianist: Virginia Miller
First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
Acolytes: Sophie Tews
Reader: Gene Dwyer
Usher: Chuck Frauendienst
Greeters:
Communion Asst: LeRoy & Joan May
Council Member: Tiffany Vanden Einde
Fellowship:
Projection: Tech Team
Audio: Tech Team
Videographer: Becky Pollack
Altar Guild: Theresa Sullivan
Rita Patrias

March 31, 2024

Organist/Pianist: Virginia Miller
First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
Acolytes: Evan Hoffman
Reader: Gene Dwyer
Usher: LeRoy May
Greeters: John Miller
Communion Asst: Vanden Einde's,
John Miller
Bonnie Keech
Council Member: Tiffany Vanden Einde
Fellowship:
Projection: Tech Team
Audio: Tech Team
Videographer: Becky Pollack
Offering Counters: Dave Johnson
Bob Bartle
Altar Guild: Theresa Sullivan
Rita Patrias



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, March 24	9:00a 10:00a	Worship First Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, March 26	9-12	Quilting
Thursday, March 28	6:30p	Maundy Thursday Worship w/Holy Communion
Friday March 29	7:00p	Good Friday Worship @ United Methodist Church
Sunday, March 31	9:00a	Easter Worship w/Holy Communion

The miracle of the Resurrection awaits us.
Embrace the journey of Holy Week.