



Sunday, March 28

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

Each year at the start of Holy Week, we hear the story of 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 gospel shows the presence of God in Christ's cross and invites us to confess with the centurion, "Truly this man was God's Son."

Prelude: Procession on "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

Dan Miller

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

To prepare a worship space in your home light a candle, gather a bowl of water, and a cross. As we remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, you are encouraged to gather greens or colorful garments to share in celebration. Over the last year, we have learned anew that Christ is with us wherever we gather, and by God's love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism, across time and space.

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples² 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.³ If 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. 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.

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Processional Hymn:

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#344

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.

(Remaining music on the following page)

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.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Offering of Music:

Filled with Excitement

Rubén Ruiz Avila, arr. Aaron David Miller

Youth Choir (Annette Finkbeiner, Director; Susan DePasquale, piano)

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and 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.

Gospel Acclamation:

Musical notation for the first line of the Gospel Acclamation. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 3/4 time and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus, look

Musical notation for the second line of the Gospel Acclamation. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 3/4 time and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: full in his won - der - ful face;

And the things of earth will grow strange - ly dim in the
light of his glo - ry and grace.

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 14:1-15:47

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. Lord, open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, and our hearts to receive you in this passion narrative.

Mark 14:1-2, 10-31

Hymn:	<i>Go to Dark Gethsemane</i>	#347, vs. 1
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Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Mark 14:32-49

Hymn:	<i>Ah, Holy Jesus</i>	#349, vs. 1
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Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.

Mark 14:50-65

Hymn:	<i>Ah, Holy Jesus</i>	#349, vs. 3
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Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.

Mark 14:66-15:15

Hymn:	<i>Were You There</i>	#353, vs. 1
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Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Mark 16:16-32

Offering of Music:

At the Foot of the Cross

Lee and Susan Dengler

*(Directed by Jim Jefferis; Performed by Sarah Morrissette, Dave Wideman,
Bob and Phyllis Stock, and Brian and Mary Jane Burke)*

Mark 16:33-41

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn:	<i>Were You There</i>	#353, vs. 5
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Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Response to the Word:

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.

Amen

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

Offering

Though we meet virtually, the ministry of God's people at BLC continues. Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. This time of uncertainty and reduced physical contact gives us ever more opportunities to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. If you are able, please continue your financial commitment to BLC.

If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.

Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.



Offering of Music:

Christ, Thou Lamb of God

arr. David Schack

Organist

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. 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

The Prayers of the People:

In the silences of our prayer you are encouraged to remember those whose needs are known to us listed below. You may also lift up the name of someone in need of prayer in the comments of our worship livestream.

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

Brief silence

Help us to see Jesus, the servant. May your church reflect the servant's heart and hands that our Savior modeled in his life. Help your people to remember that your love and grace and forgiveness are not just for us, but for the whole world, and that it arrives here through our hands and our hearts. Hear us O God,
your mercy is great.

Help us to see Jesus, the peacemaker. We stand in horror at the senseless violence that happens in so many places, and to so many of our brothers and sisters, whether it's the mass shootings in Atlanta and Boulder, the kidnapping of innocent people for ransom or revenge, or the abuse or abandonment of a loved one. Help us to speak up in the face of violence and hatred, and to be instruments of your peace. Hear us O God,
your mercy is great.

Help us to see Jesus, our friend and companion, in the faces of the people we encounter every day as we move through our daily lives. We give thanks for this community of Bethlehem Lutheran, where Jesus can be found in the smiles and voices of our brothers and sisters, especially Bethany, Luke, Don and Vicki, Neil, Art, Jenny, and Rick and Beth. We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us O God,
your mercy is great.

Help us to see Jesus, the compassionate healer, who knows our needs better than we do ourselves.

We pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- Paula, who will be laid to rest on 3/29
- Kevin (brother of Alan) who died on 3/13
- Hans, father of Andy's cousin Birgit, who died on 3/14

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Michele, niece of Toni, recovering from surgery on 3/23
- Beth recovering from anticipated surgery on 3/25
- Karen, and her daughter, Amber, friends of Carol. Karen has been placed in Hospice care
- Christina, friend of Carol, who fell and injured herself at work
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis as she seeks a kidney donor
- Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters
- Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those who are infected with or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers

As your children, we also offer up our own prayers to you in our hearts or on our lips...

Long silence

Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Benediction:

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen

- 1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

- 2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!

- 3 Sometimes we strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
and for his death we thirst and cry.

- 4 We cry out; we will have
our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save,
the prince of life to slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes
that he his foes from thence might free.

- 5 In life no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

- 6 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683, alt.

Dismissal:

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Postlude on “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

David Cherwien

Holy Week 2021 Our Lenten plea – “We want to see Jesus!”– culminates in Holy Week, when we do see Jesus. As we observe Holy Week as a community this year, we want to see Jesus in all of these ways –not only through a screen in our homes, but in tangible signs and practices throughout the week. [Download the full details here](#) (or contact the church office for a copy) NOTE: Some activities require planning ahead, so don’t wait to read this! Visit <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> for the link to worship, order of service, and any special instructions!

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28:

Livestream worship at 8:30am (available to watch anytime afterwards)

[Bring your palm to worship](#): Cut it out so you are ready to wave it as part of the opening procession!

Be ready to wave your palm and process around your living room (or wherever you find yourself worshipping that day)!

Maundy Thursday, April 1:

Worship will be posted at noon; watch at your convenience!

As Jesus gathered with friends for the Last Supper, we gather in worship this evening around a meal with our households! Plan to eat in a place where you can view worship! Include candles and something to light them as part of your table this evening. At the end of the meal, there will be an opportunity to pause worship and clear your table before we resume worship with the stripping of the altar in anticipation of Good Friday.

Good Friday, April 2:

Worship will be posted at noon; watch at your convenience!

The worship is led in collaboration with nearby Lutheran churches. Together, we will follow the “stations of the cross” as we see Jesus in various parts of our community and in the faces of the people we meet there.

Easter Sunday, April 4: We see Jesus resurrected just as he promised!

Livestream worship at 8:30am (available to watch anytime afterwards)

Prepare your worship space by finding/unearthing the Alleluia coloring page that was hidden away on Transfiguration Sunday. ([Find it here](#) if you missed it at the start of Lent!) Find something that makes noise - some dry beans in a jar? jingle bells? - and shake them every time you hear "Alleluia" in worship!

Celebrate communion on April 4... Following the communion liturgy (online!), you are invited to make your way to Bethlehem before 11 am to receive the Sacrament. If you or a loved one would like to commune but can’t make your way to BLC, please let Pastor Amy know.

Calendar for week of March 28 – April 4

(Last updated on 3/23/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, March 28

Palm/Passion Sunday

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Book/Bible
Study
([Join](#) or use ID 869 8659 4311)
6:30 pm Work Camp Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 862 8043 0044)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, March 29

No Virtual Youth Choir
No GFL Confirmation
6:30 pm BSA Troop 208

Tuesday, March 30

Wednesday, March 31

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
9:30 am Education Planning
Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 871 8823 9638)
No Chancel Bells
8:00 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, April 1

Maundy Thursday

10:00 am CMT
([Join](#) or use ID 825 5536 5823)
11:00 am Liturgy Planning
Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 815 6695 4481)
12:00 pm Maundy Thursday
worship is available on
Facebook, YouTube

Friday, April 2

Good Friday

12:00 pm Good Friday
worship is available on
Facebook, YouTube
No Folk Group Rehearsal
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, April 3

Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunday

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship followed by Holy
Communion – the sanctuary
will be open for people to
receive communion until 11 am
No LYO

For additional details about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at office@blcfairport.org and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy remains available by phone and email at other times.

***To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

***Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

A Different Kind of Bloodline

Combining into one liturgy the “Hosanna!” of the triumphal palm procession and the “Crucify him!” of the passion drama—especially as filtered through Paul’s image of the “exalted” slave—invites a meditation on the mystery of Jesus’ sovereignty.

How can we grasp what it means to have or want a king when we reject the notion that bloodline conveys the right to rule? And yet, thanks to fairy tales, the Arthurian legends, and Shakespeare we have some inkling of the power, privilege, and even “divine rights” of royalty. We can use our imaginations to muster up a rousing “Ride on, King Jesus!” Then we can appreciate the incongruity: this king has to borrow a donkey, a room, and a tomb. Then, even more confounding, is that this king, “who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited” and even borrows our human likeness—including our death (Phil. 2:6).

Judas and Pilate are symbols of all humanity—including the church, to its shame—in their desire for a grand royal gesture: start a revolution, call in your army, dazzle us with eloquent testimony. Jesus resists every such temptation and embraces the mortal human scale of his limited earthly reign.

Jesus prophesied that when he was lifted up all the world would be drawn to him; Philippians proclaims that “every knee should bend” and “every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” So, whose knee will bow at the name of Jesus? All those who, following Jesus and trusting the faithfulness of God, are drawn to attend fully to human life, need, and mortality.

In monarchy, leaders lead by virtue of divine sanction of a particular bloodline. Our fond hope is that leadership is bestowed on the basis of merit, hard work, and authentic charisma. Our cynical fear is that it is bestowed on the basis of money, influence, and cronyism. The witness of Passion Sunday is that Jesus’ credential is innocent blood shed in obedience to God for the sake of the broken.

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