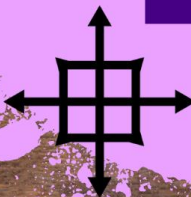


# Palm/Passion Sunday

March 24, 2024



**LOVE** **EVOLUTIONARY**  
**LENT**



**MUHLENBERG**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# Palm / Passion Sunday ~ MARCH 24, 2024

## WELCOME

We welcome you in the name of Christ. **We love welcoming guests/visitors** and encourage you to complete one of the blue cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, or **scan this QR Code** with your smart phone to complete the visitor card digitally. We have a gift for you at our Welcome Desk – please stop by after worship. You are invited to join in all parts of worship. Everything you need is printed in this worship booklet. All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. If you do not wish to receive, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing! For instructions on how to receive the bread and wine, see the Communion section later in this booklet. Portions of worship in **bold print** are to be spoken by the whole congregation. We stand for portions of our worship service. **Please feel free to remain seated, if you prefer.**



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

While we do not require masks in the building, wearing a mask for any reason is always welcomed. We continue to follow the current CDC guidance, and we request that anyone who experiences symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, stay home, self-isolate and get tested. Please wear a well-fitted mask if you have a known exposure to COVID in the past 10 days. Thank you for doing all you can to help care for one another by reducing the spread of germs in our community!

## OUR WORSHIP

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church – gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God’s constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Narrative Lectionary (a four-year cycle of scripture readings in biblical order), we are connected through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time. *For details, see “About Our Worship” on the inside back cover.*

**Worship will be live-streamed this morning.** Digital ministry is an essential part of our community with the Wellstream service at 11:00 am allowing those at home to worship alongside our gathered community for a service of Holy Communion. The cameras will be primarily focused on our worship leaders and offer some wide-angle views of the sanctuary. If you have questions or concerns about appearing on camera, contact Pastor Alex or Communication Minister Christian Perritt ([perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org)).

## OTHER NOTES

- **Amplification devices** for the hearing impaired are available from ushers or at the Welcome Desk.
- A **restroom** is located at the north end of the Gathering Area (additional restrooms downstairs).

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## MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD’S GRACE

Open ✚ Authentic ✚ Relational ✚ Serving

Pastor Lauren Eanes

Pastor Alex Zuber (on parental leave)

281 E. Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 434-3496  
[www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

# WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

## PROCESSION WITH PALMS

*We come from our homes, our labor, our struggles, and our joys – which we share in fellowship as a Christian community. We are gathered together as God's people to worship. In this first part of our worship, we share together honestly – our sins in confession, our joy in forgiveness.*

## WORSHIPERS ASSEMBLE IN THE GATHERING AREA

*Worshippers preferring to take a seat in the Sanctuary are welcome to do so.*

## WELCOME AND CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## ACCLAMATION

*The presiding minister addresses the congregation.*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.**

## PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL ~ Mark 11:1-11

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

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

## BLESSING OF THE PALMS

*All may raise their palm branches for the blessing and the processional hymn.*

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.**

## PROCESSION WITH THE PALMS

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The assembly follows the ministers into the church waving palm branches.*

*Worshippers seated in the Sanctuary turn to face the procession.*

## 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**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

(We sit)

## ANTHEM OF PRAISE

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* (J. Carter)

Combined Choir

## WORD

*The first half of our liturgy focuses on the Word of God through the reading of scripture and preaching. The pattern of reading, singing, reading, singing is an ancient one, which comes from Christianity's roots in Jewish synagogue worship.*

### FIRST READING ~ Psalm 118:25-29

<sup>25</sup>Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

<sup>26</sup>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup>The LORD is God,  
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.

<sup>28</sup>You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.

<sup>29</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

*The reading concludes:*

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

## GOSPEL ~ Mark 14:3-9

Judy Wilfong, Biblical Storyteller

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

*We invite you to lay your bulletin aside and listen to the Biblical Storyteller.*

*If you wish to reference this text, it is in the pew Bible, N.T. page 52.*

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

## SERMON

Pastor Lauren Eanes

*Silence for reflection follows.*

*(We stand)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ~ My Song Is Love Unknown**

ELW 343

## APOSTLES' CREED

Let us 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.**

## **PRAYERS**

*After each petition:*

. . . Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*The lay assisting minister concludes the prayers:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

*Have a prayer concern to share? Forms are available in the back cover of each hymnal.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **“Peace be with you.”**

(We sit)

## **MEAL**

*In the second half of our liturgy, we gather around the table, following Jesus’ invitation. Here in this meal we encounter the risen Lord who gives himself for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening the Body of Christ.*

## **OFFERING**

*Agnus Dei Canon (D. Moore)*

Combined Choir

(We stand)

**OFFERING SONG ~ Create in Me a Clean Heart**

ELW 188

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, bread of life, **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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
who proclaimed a revolution of love,  
transforming sadness to joy, and shame to hope;  
guiding your people from death to life,  
pouring out his own life for the world.

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 and 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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be transformed in the r(evol)utionary love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, the love who turns the world around.

(We sit)

## COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table! After the invitation to communion, the ushers will direct each row to come forward. If, for any reason, you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, signal an usher or raise your hand, and an assisting minister will bring the elements to you.

As you come forward, pick up a small cup from the table at the front and then receive the bread (wafer) from the minister. Gluten-free wafers are located on the table. If you require gluten-free, please take one and present it to the pastor for blessing.

Next, proceed to one of the two communion assistants. The first chalice has wine, and the second chalice has grape juice.

As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words:

“The body of Christ, given for you . . . The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

You may say: “Amen.”

After consuming the wine/juice, please put your cup on the tray along the side wall, and return to your seat via the side aisle. **If you don't wish to remove your mask up front**, you may choose to bring the elements back to your pew to eat/drink there.

## MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

### Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

(We stand)

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Merciful God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and transform the world with your love. **Amen.**

### **A PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY**

God of the cross, tottering down the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey,  
You are not the savior we expect.  
Your power doesn't look like the power we want our God to have.  
Your wisdom makes no sense to us.

We are happy to join the crowd, waving branches,  
but not so sure we want to follow you through this Holy Week:  
into the temple courts  
into the upper room  
into the Garden of Gethsemane  
to the high priest's house,  
to the assembly of elders,  
to Pilate,  
to Herod,  
to the place of The Skull,  
to *the foot of the cross.*

We need you to go with us on this journey.  
Grant us clear vision,  
Courageous hearts,  
Persistent steps.

Even though we know what this week will bring, we sing:  
Hosanna, hosanna.  
Save us, we beseech you! **Amen.**

*Silence for reflection follows.*

## SENDING

*Our worship does not end, but continues in the world. In our daily lives we are called to be ministers of God's love and mercy as we live and serve by the power of the risen Christ.*

### **SENDING HYMN ~ Go to Dark Gethsemane**

ELW 347

*The congregation turns & faces the cross reminding us that we follow Christ into the world & our daily lives.*

### **BLESSING**

From Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday, may God in infinite mercy grant you a journey of renewal and hope, a time of prayer and reflection, and joyful anticipation of our Lord's resurrection. May you live and serve this week in remembrance of Christ's love. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*After worship, Pastor Lauren invites you to greet her and each other in the Gathering Area. Please be mindful of others' wishes for physical distancing.*

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICES

**PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

**LAY ASSISTING  
MINISTERS**    **8:30** ~ Mary Elizabeth Skinner  
                         **11:00** ~ Linda Alley

**LECTORS**            **8:30** ~ Judy Wilfong, Biblical Storyteller  
                         **11:00** ~ Judy Wilfong, Biblical Storyteller

**CRUCIFERS**        **8:30** ~ Jim Doyle  
                         **11:00** ~ Cheryl Hoak

**BIBLE  
BEARER**            **8:30** ~ Kathy Thompson  
                         **11:00** ~ Kathy Thompson

**TORCH  
BEARERS**         **8:30** ~ Bill Whitmire, Gus Kagey  
                         **11:00** ~ Sue Koch, Brett Tjaden

**COMMUNION  
ASSISTANTS**    **8:30** ~ Judy Wilfong, Jim Doyle, Bill Whitmire, Gus Kagey  
                         **11:00** ~ Judy Wilfong, Cheryl Hoak, Robert Alley, Sue Koch

**USHERS**            **8:30** ~ Jeannette Norfleet, Margie Miller  
                         **11:00** ~ Nathan and Caroline Leopard

**SOUND  
TECHS**             **8:30** ~ Bill Wightman  
                         **11:00** ~ Mark Byerly

**MUSICIANS**      Linlin Uta, Interim Music Minister  
                         Judith Ofcarcik, Organist  
                         Combined Choir ~ Sanctuary Choir and Celebration Singers

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Permission to print/podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license # A-701538, CCLI license # 20104877, Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License: SAS014720, and St James Press, license #15220. "A Prayer for Palm Sunday," by Rev. Joanna Harader, from SpaciousFaith.com

### REMINDERS AS YOU EXIT THE SANCTUARY

- Please leave this worship booklet in the basket at the sanctuary entrance for the next service (or recycling).
- We encourage you to take *The Chimes* home with you.

## ABOUT OUR WORSHIP...

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:** + All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins, but no one should feel compelled. Both our confession of sin and God's promise of mercy are rooted in our baptism. We come before God recalling our brokenness, but even more God's great grace.

**GATHERING HYMN:** We sing as the Spirit gathers us for worship and this hymn sets the tone for the day.

**KYRIE:** The Kyrie is an ancient piece of service liturgy that may date back to the second century. Kyrie Eleison is Greek for "Lord have mercy" and is in reference to both New and Old Testament scriptures which use the same words and pattern.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** The Prayer of the Day collects the themes from today's scripture readings.

**READINGS AND PSALM:** Liturgy, from the Greek, means "the work of the people." Our worship is designed so we all take part. We are far more than just spectators. The scripture readings follow a three-year cycle, called a lectionary. We are connected with other Christians all over the world, in many denominations, reading the same texts. The Psalms were the original Hymns in Holy Scripture, used by God's people for personal and corporate devotion. They continue to be prayed, sung and read by God's people all over the world as a rich and honest expression of faith. We stand during the gospel because we believe our Lord is present with us in the reading.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

**NICENE & APOSTLES' CREEDS:** The creeds (statements of faith) date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century and contain the basics of what Christians around the world hold to be true. The use of the non-capitalized word "catholic" means simply worldwide or universal.

**PRAYERS:** We pray as a community. The assisting minister leads this time to gather the prayers of all, and at his/ her invitation you may add others aloud or silently in your heart.

**PEACE:** Much more than a pleasant greeting — we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace to one another.

**OFFERING:** Our offerings are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service. They support the ministries of Christ's church in this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

**OFFERING SONG:** This song becomes our prayer as our gifts are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:** The Great Thanksgiving is an ancient part of the worship that proclaims our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal. The "Holy, Holy, Holy" echoes the heavenly chorus in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus enters Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility. Some will make the sign of the cross at the announcement of God's presence: "Blessed is He..."

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:** Eucharist is the Greek word for thanks. These are the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture: 1Cor. 11:23-26, Matt. 26:26-29, Luke 22:15-20.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. In this prayer, all our needs and concerns are addressed. See ELW page 1163 for Martin Luther's explanation of this prayer in the small catechism.

**COMMUNION:** The "last supper" was a meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. He invited them to share this meal in the future to remember him and he promised to be present in a mysterious, but very real sense. All who desire to participate are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** We gather once more in song as our worship concludes, and we prepare to take this good news into the world.

**BLESSING:** In this blessing we are reminded we bear God's name as we depart to live out our baptism, serving our neighbor and spreading the gospel. It reaffirms our mission and reminds us that if we are to be a Wellspring of Grace, we need to be renewed first through Water, Word, and Meal—the means of grace God has given to us.

# Holy Week!

Join us in ancient and holy practices recalling Jesus' final week and glorious resurrection. See [muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2024](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2024) for more details.

- **The Triduum** (*The Three Days*) is the ancient observance of the mystery of our salvation, which plunges the faithful into the death of Jesus and brings them with him to resurrection life. The Three Days is one liturgy, extending from Thursday evening through the Easter Vigil. You are invited to conform your life to the worship rhythms of the church on these three days:

- **Maundy Thursday - Thursday March 28, 7:00pm\***

We heed Christ's commandment to love one another as we wash each other's feet and share the meal he instituted.

- **Good Friday - Friday March 29, 7:00pm\***

We hear the passion of Christ, the narrative of Jesus crucified and reigning from the cross.

- **Easter Vigil - Saturday March 30, 8:00pm**

This is the high point of the church's year, the night, the very night, the Passover of Christ from death to life. This year's Vigil will be a simplified version of the traditional liturgy. We'll begin with the lighting of the new fire, and process into the sanctuary for the reading of the Word. Readers will share with us the entirety of the gospel of Mark, for a truly epic experience of the gospel story. We'll then gather around the communion table to celebrate the first resurrection meal. Following the service, we'll extend the celebration of Easter with food and fellowship.



- **Easter Sunday - March 31, 8:30 and 11:00am\***

The ultimate r(evol)ution of love came about through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! On Easter Sunday, in word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love. Join us at 9:30 am for Easter Brunch Potluck. There will also be an opportunity to have an individual or family Photo taken and printed. Then at 9:45 am, join us inside the MAC for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. In addition to the hunt, there will be games, and activities for kids of all ages.

\*Services marked with asterisks will also be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

**Staffed nursery care** for children under age 5 is available at all services **except the Easter Vigil.**