

**March 24, 2024**

**Palm Sunday**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	JAM Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:45 am	2nd Year Catechism (every other Sunday)
2:00 pm	Chapel Communion (2nd Sunday of the month)

**LIVESTREAM AND RECORDED WORSHIP:** We livestream the service on our church website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com). Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website

**SMILE! YOU'RE ON CAMERA:** Please remember you may be on camera during the livestream and the recording of the service.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets at 9:15 am in the lounge every Sunday.

**CHILDREN AGES 3 THROUGH 5TH GRADE** will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (JAM Room).

**2ND YEAR CATECHISM CLASSES:** Second year class will meet every other Sunday at 11:45 am.

**NURSERY** is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

**RESTROOMS** are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

**FLOWERS:** If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

**MEMORIALS:** If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am**

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringing of the Bell *(Please stand)*

**The Procession With Palms**  
*(please stand)*

P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Hosanna to the Son of David.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Processional Gospel – Mark 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he 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!"

*(Please raise your palm branches  
for the thanksgiving and the processional.)*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palms in his path.

We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Processional Hymn** *"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"* No. 344

*Children, worship leaders, choir, and any worshipers  
who wish to join in will now make their way  
around the sanctuary to the altar while the hymn is sung.*

After the conclusion of the hymn:

P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Hosanna in the highest.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

**Announcements**

**Introduction**

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

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in Isaiah 40--55. Today's reading is a self-description of the mission of the servant. This motif became even more important in the early church for understanding the suffering and death of Jesus.*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens--  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11**

*To illustrate the great self-giving of Christ's passion--the motive for Christian love --Paul quotes an early Christian hymn.*

<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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**Gospel Announcement**

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark Chapter 15: 1-47.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(Please be seated)*

**“The Passion of Our Lord According to St. Mark”**

### **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Special Music**

“Via Dolorosa” Aubrey Hess, Vocalist  
Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

### **SERMON**

Pastor Rayl

*(Please stand)*

### **Apostles’ Creed**

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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

### **Pastoral Prayer** *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Great God of mercy and peace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **The Offering**

#### **Offertory Music**

“Gospel Hosanna!” FSJ Chancel Choir  
Dr. Joan Walldorf, Director of Music  
Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

#### **Offering Prayer**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O

God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen, amen, amen.**

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

**The Lord's Prayer** *(prayed by all)*

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.

**Invitation to Communion**

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**C: Come, take your place at the table.**

*(Please be seated)*

**The Communion** *(distribution will be continuous)*

*All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest."*

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*

*(After all have received communion, please stand.)*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous God at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**C: Amen.**

**Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you

And be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

*"The Day of Resurrection"*

No.361

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Dick Haar, John Roth

**READER**

Susie Purewal

**SOUND BOARD**

Beth Huguely





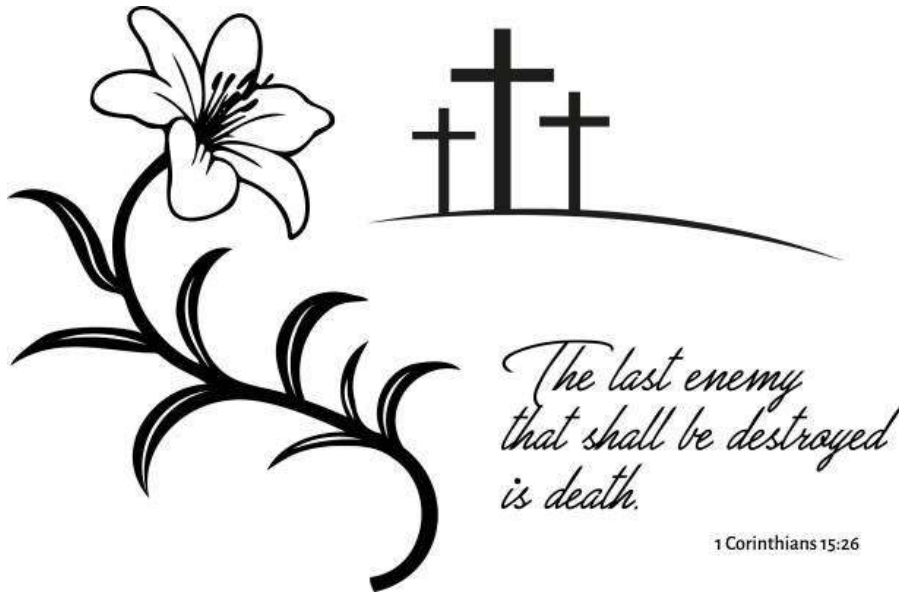
## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

*Please join us!*

**Mar 28<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday 11:00 am, 7:00 pm**

**Mar 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday 12:00 pm**

**Mar 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday 8:00 am, 10:30 am**



*The last enemy  
that shall be destroyed  
is death.*

1 Corinthians 15:26

March 24, 2024

PALM SUNDAY

### Joined in Forsakenness

In Matthew and in Mark, two out of the four Gospels, Jesus says only one thing from the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Of the "seven last words," three sayings are found only in Luke and three only in John. There is no major conflict among the Gospels' different tellings, but there is certainly a difference in emphasis, a difference in tone. In Matthew and Mark, the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death is a story of abandonment. Jesus' closest friends and followers abandon him after proclaiming that they will die before they will deny him. Even Peter, the rock against which Hades will not prevail, distinguishes himself by the most blatant denial of Jesus. Yes, some of the women stay throughout, but they can only look on from a distance. They are witnesses to his suffering, but they are not physically close enough (in Matthew and Mark's telling) to make him feel less alone. Finally, with his movement crushed and his followers scattered, the dying Jesus feels that even God has deserted him.

When terrible or tragic things happen to us, we are devastated in two ways: by the loss or the pain itself, and also by the feeling that we are outside the circle of God's care. It is important for us to know that Jesus also experienced not only the pain and loss, but also the feeling of abandonment by God. When you feel forsaken, you are not outside the story of God's care for God's own. You are with Jesus on the cross. You can't be more inside the story than that. The hope is that for you also, God, unseen, is working to overturn the tragedy, joining you even in forsakenness in order to draw you into Easter.