

A graphic of palm fronds in a lighter shade of purple, positioned in the lower-left and bottom-center of the page.

Palm Sunday

OUR SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Palm Sunday**  
Sunday, March 28, 2021



**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027  
425-392-4169

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD: PALM SUNDAY**

### **GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Cantor

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,  
Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One.

The company of angels are praising You on high;  
Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply.

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

#### **WELCOME**

Pastor Jim Kruse

#### **GREETING**

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

#### **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL**

Mark 11: 1-11

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.

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## GATHERING SONG

### *Lift Up Your Heads*

Cantor

Text & Music: Stephen Fry/Scott Hafso, based on *Psalm 24*

Lift up your heads to the coming King. Bow before him, and adore him.  
Sing, sing to his majesty.  
Let your praises pure and holy, giving glory to the King of kings.  
Oh, sing hosanna to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Everlasting God,

**C: 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 50:4-9a

<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>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:5-11

<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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### *Return to God*

Cantor

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and  
mer - cy: Come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

## THE GOSPEL

Mark 15:1-39

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup>Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. <sup>8</sup>So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. <sup>9</sup>Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. <sup>12</sup>Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup>They shouted back, "Crucify him!" <sup>14</sup>Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup>They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup>Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup>In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>Now when the

centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

*From Life to Death to Life*

Pastor Jim Kruse

Although I had no background in rural life or gardening or, for that matter, keeping anything green in color alive, I had been called to serve a congregation in rural Wisconsin that had been gathering farmers together every Sunday morning for a hundred and fifty years. And so I did not really know what Linda Krause was doing on a Sunday afternoon late in October, maybe even the beginning of November, when she drove her pickup truck into the church parking lot and went after the four-foot hedge that separated the church patio from the cars. Linda was wielding a big saw that looked for all the world to me like a hack saw, only ten times bigger. It could have been a machete for the way she was using it. It was about two o'clock in the afternoon Linda went to work on that hedge cutting down everything she saw. And by five o'clock, three hours later, she had reduced the entire hedge to about eight or ten piles of stalks and branches; which she loaded into the back of her pickup truck and drove off. Like she some kind of boot camp barber, Linda gave that hedge a haircut that left nothing but stubble.

The next Sunday I asked Linda why she did what she did to that poor hedge, and she just smiled and said, "Just wait! Wait until next year," by which she meant "next spring." Those of you who have more smarts about living things that grow out of the ground than I do have probably already figured out that Linda was just doing some pruning in order to keep those plants healthy and strong. But I was convinced that, for some reason, she hated that hedge, and was intent on killing it off when no one was looking.

There is a reality of life, built right into the fabric of creation, that most of the time we don't want to acknowledge, except maybe when we are doing some gardening. And that reality is this: When living things die in the right way, that is, according to the will and desire of God, according to the way God brought life into this world in the first place—when that happens, what looks like death is not death at all. But it is the beginning, a seed, a kernel of new life. I thought for sure that that hedge was a goner, never to be seen again, the roots left to rot away in the ground. But not so! The next spring those roots gave rise to little sprigs, then the sprigs to buds, and the buds to leaves, and the leaves to a whole new hedge.

Five and a half weeks ago, on Ash Wednesday, by way of video, we reminded ourselves that death is a part of life that we will never be able to escape. We were invited to consider our own mortality and to entrust our lives and our futures into the God who has to power to give life and receive it back again. Today, as we celebrate Palm Sunday, we are entering into Holy Week and Jesus' journey to death on a cross. We are being invited to see what a life looks like when it is given into death according to the way of God.

I have just read to you a frightening and powerful tale of suffering and death. Throughout his telling of this story, Mark points out again and again all of the opportunities Jesus had to push back. To say, "No! This is not the way I want it to end." Jesus' refusal to explain his life and mission to Pilate and his silence before the chief priests. His willing acceptance of mockery and beatings at the hands of the soldiers and crowd in the courtyard. His rejec-

tion of the painkilling qualities of the myrrh offered to him on the cross. And, perhaps most significant, his refusal to give into the constant calls to abandon the cross, to save himself from the excruciating pain and death.

By telling this story to each other again today, we are getting a fresh insight into the heart of God. The death of Jesus on the cross is God's way of taking care of all sinfulness for us. And it is an invitation to us into the same way of being. These words describe a way of living that allows for the death of the self-promoting, self-preserving side of us to die. We call that side of each person the sinner in us. But we also look to Jesus and the promise that new person, focused on living a life dependent upon God's guidance and care will arise. We call that the saint that each of us was created to be.

It is the hope that in this time, as we will hear the words about the Christ of God giving himself up on the cross, it will turn our own hearts over in a new way. Calling us to let God have God's way with us, and preparing us for the surprise of new beginnings that is associated with Easter Sunday. Easter is not far off. But it is far enough for us to get ready. Our hearts as well as our homes. May God bless your time spent in this life-giving story of death.

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

Cantor

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915; Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;  
Free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and Mercy found me;  
There the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day with its shadows o'er me.

#### **OFFERING**

During the season of Lent, we see and hear most clearly the fullness of God's love, as Jesus accepts the journey to the cross, where he suffers death on our behalf. The mission of the church is to continue to carry this good news to all people across the years. Please make a special effort this Lent to support this work at Our Savior Lutheran Church with your financial gifts.

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

PM: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **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, 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 OF THE PEOPLE**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*[A brief silence.]*

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer, especially John Kip, Noreen, Rachel, Alice, Leslie, Evy and her family, the Smith & Taylor families, James, Joan and Stephanie, Betty, Brandi, Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the Kowal and the

Zazueta families, Roger, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie grant respite and renewal. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. We are grateful that vaccines that reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic are reaching more and more people, and we pray for the continued success of this medical miracle. At the same time, we pray that you give peace to the families of those who have lost loved ones. Strengthen and encourage those who are sick and those who work to alleviate the suffering. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

*[Here other intercessions may be offered.]*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

PM: Lord, remember us in your love as you teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

### **SENDING SONG**

*Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

Cantor

Text & Music: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;  
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:  
You alone are our life and our peace and our love.  
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

### **READING FOR HOLY WEEK**

John 12:23-26

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very 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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

### **INVITATION TO THE CROSS**

PM: Come, let us go the cross.

**C: Lord, grant us courage. Amen**

### **POSTLUDE**

*All Glory, Laud and Honor* — M. Teschner

Jiyoung Lee



---

## **Serving in Worship:**

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Mary Ann Hult
Cantors:	Marc Montague, Lori Downey, Scott Hafso
Organist:	Jiyoung Lee
Pianist:	Scott Hafso
Videographer:	Leslie Waltzer
Video Editor:	Dave Carlson
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

**Readings for Easter Sunday:** Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

**Acknowledgements:** Liturgy reprinted from SundaysandSeasons.com, copyright © 2020, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under **Augsburg Fortress License #32992**. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

### **Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff**

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*  
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*  
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*  
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



***Additional worship resources:***

Reading: Psalm 31: 9-16

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936; Music: Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

*Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslciissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.*

**John Wray** strength and healing (Shelley & Mark Howe)

**Kip Hauser** diagnosed with throat cancer. (father of Cheryl Hauser)

**Noreen** adoptive mother of a 3 week old baby, in the hospital with COVID. (Connie Fletcher)

**Rachel** 21 yrs old, in need of a kidney transplant. (Marilyn Carlson)

**Alice F** healing and wholeness. (Marilyn Carlson)

**Leslie Lapp** hit by a car and recovering from injuries, wife to a pastor in California. (Mary Ann Hult)

**Evy Sneva and her family** as they grieve the loss of her son.

**The Smith and Taylor families, James Murphy** recovering from COVID (Shelley & Mark Howe)

**Joan Perry** admitted to the hospital for COVID 19, and her daughter, **Stephanie**. (Cheryl Neeb)

**Betty Anderson**-healing of intestinal issues. (mother of Shelley Howe)

**Brandi Kowal**-peace and strength after a miscarriage. (niece of Shelley Howe)

**Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the The Kowal & Zazueta families** recovering from COVID (Shelley & Mark Howe)

**Roger Stanley** strength and healing. (Alice Lewis)

**Safety and peace for communities** being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

**Dave Carlson** continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

**Guests of the Community Meals Program** safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

**Sonja** 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

**Nicole DeCamp** healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

**Josee Jordan** peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

**Jeannie Lindquist** continued healing and strength.

**Healing and peace of mind: Henrik & Patty Christopherson** (Dianne Tanner); **Vern Lindquist; Marian James; Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don**

**Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas; Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.**

**Undergoing cancer treatment: Tim Rutten** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Carol Howe** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Tom Killoran** (Shelley Howe); **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland)

**Living with cancer: Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

**Expectant Mothers: Karen** (daughter of Bob & Patty Gerde); **Marian Martin** (Stacy Smith); **Alyssa Saavedra** (Cheryl Neeb); **Shawna McIntyre** (Cheryl Neeb)

**Mourning the death of loved ones:** For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **JD Golick** (nephew to Patty Gerde); **Dave McMurray** (father of Shannon Dickens); **Del Elliott** (Kate Gagnon); **John Sneva** (Evy Sneva's son)

**Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: Mike** special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

**Global Missions and Missionaries:** Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem, and for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.