

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Palm Sunday



THE CONGREGATION GATHERS ON THE LAWN AT THE CROSS – See Insert

- * Processional Hymn.....**All Glory, Laud and Honor****LBW 108**
- * Order for Individual Confession and Forgiveness..... page 155

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn.....**Prepare the Royal Highway**.....**LBW 26**
- * The Kyrie.....page 57
- * The Hymn of Praise.....Glory to God..... page 58

EQUIP

- The First Lesson.....Zechariah 9:9-12
 - L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**
- The Psalm 118:19-29..... Bulletin pg. 4
- The Second Lesson Philipians 2:5-11
 - L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**
- * The Holy Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47
- Children's SermonPastor Coble
- The Message "Finding Peace"Pastor Coble
- Hymn of the Day **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**.....**LBW 482**
- * The Apostles Creed.....page 65
- * The Prayers and the Peace..... page 65

GIVE

- The Offering The People of God
- * The Offertory and the Prayer.....pages 66, 67

RECEIVE

- * The Great Thanksgiving..... page 68
- * The Eucharistic Prayer & The Lord's Prayerpages 69, 71
- * **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**
- * Post-Communion Canticle.....*Lord, now you let your servant* page 73
- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn**O Sacred Head, Now Wounded****LBW 117**
- * The Dismissal: P: Go in Peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**
- Postlude

* = Stand Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. The Prayer Teams will be praying with you and for your concerns during the coming week as well. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact the Church Office this week.

THIS WEEK'S THEME: What is your focus as you gather this morning for worship? This service really has two focuses. The first part of the service will look at Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. They will welcome Him as King. The second part will focus on Passion Sunday, and we will remember Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. Today we will boldly say, "Lord, I belong to You and I trust You."

FIRST LESSON: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

PSALM 118:19-29

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.

²⁰**“This is the gate of the LORD;
he who is righteous may enter.”**

²¹I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.

²²**The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

²³This is the LORD’S doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴**On this day the LORD has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

²⁵Hosannah, LORD, hosannah!
LORD, send us now success.

²⁶**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.**

²⁷God is the LORD; he has shined upon us;
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸**“You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”**

²⁹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 14:1-15:47

¹It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, ²for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people." ³And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. ⁴There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. ⁹And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her. ¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him. ¹²And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. ¹⁷And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." ²²And as they were eating, he took his bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” ²⁶And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’” ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ²⁹Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” ³⁰And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” ³¹But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same. ³²And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” ³⁵And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” ³⁷And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.” ⁴²Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.” ⁴³And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.” ⁴⁵And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁴⁶And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸And Jesus said to them, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.” ⁵⁰And they all left him and fled. ⁵¹And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, ⁵²but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked. ⁵³And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. ⁵⁴And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the

courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷And some stood up and bore false witness against him saying, ⁵⁸“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” ⁶¹But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” ⁶²And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” ⁶³And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” And the guards received him with blows. ⁶⁶And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” ⁷⁰But again, he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” ⁷¹But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” ⁷²And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept. ^{15:1}And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. ²And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” ³And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” ⁵But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. ⁶Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he

usually did for them. ⁹And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹²And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. ¹⁶And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him. ²¹And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²²And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him. ³³And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹And when the centurion, who

stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.⁴¹ When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.⁴² And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath,⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead.⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph.⁴⁶ And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8. Readings are based on the recommended use of the English Standard Version (ESV) by the North American Lutheran Church and Lectionary of Sola Publishing. Used by Permission.

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Gary Leatherman, Phil Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi Pisko, Michael Pisko, Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Richard & Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Carolyn & Scott Whisnant.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village),

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Travis Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Family of Sheila Cook, Harold Crouse, Dennis D'Alessino, Wayne and Joyce Eckard, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, J.C., Michelle Kirkland, Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Katie Patton, Angela Sanford, Melinda Smith, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Cozel Spencer, Shanie Spencer, Steven, Sue, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR GARY COBLE who is leading worship this morning!

HOLY WEEK BEGINS TODAY! Please join us for all the special opportunities to worship as we focus on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection during the Last Supper, His suffering, and His death on the cross.

March 28	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion
March 29	7:00 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
March 31	7:30 AM	Son Rise Worship in Union Church
	8:30 AM	Easter Son Rise Breakfast
	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord

ECCCM HAS A NEW NAME – ASHURE MINISTRY! This change does not affect the types of programs and services being offered, and the people of Catawba County may continue to apply for food and crisis assistance. Ashure appreciates the continued generosity of food donations from the disciples of Grace.

THE 2022 FLOWER CHART is posted in the Narthex. If you wish to give the flowers for a given Sunday, please list your name on the chart in the Narthex. *You are responsible for ordering the flowers from a florist of your choice; we do not have a standing order with any florist.* The liturgical color of the day is listed to assist you in selecting flowers appropriate for that Sunday. You should contact the Church Office the Tuesday prior to your selected Sunday so that the correct information is placed in the bulletin for that Sunday.

A CHURCH SPRING CLEAN UP is scheduled for **Saturday, March 30th beginning at 10:00 a.m.** There is plenty to do and everyone is welcome...work is always more fun with a group! Let's make our church beautiful and we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

JOB OPENING - Grace is now accepting applications for the part-time secretary/administrative assistant position. For details, see a Board Member.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please offer your services as a Lector, Usher or Communion Assistant for the upcoming months! If you would like to serve during a particular month (or two), please contact Tim Eckard.

*“Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.”*

Psalm 118:19

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:

24 – Belinda Wilfong
Katie Whalen

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today: **PALM SUNDAY (SUNDAY OF THE PASSION)**
10:30A – Worship Celebration

Thursday: 7:00P – Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

Friday: 7:00P – Good Friday Observance

Saturday: 10:00A – Church Spring Clean-Up

Next Sunday: **RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**
7:30A – Easter Son Rise Worship (Union Church)
8:30A – Easter Breakfast (FH)
9:30A – Sunday School
10:30A – Worship Celebration

The Ministers..... The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist..... Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Pam Tallent
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth Leader Stormy Shull
Lector Todd Childers
Communion Assistants..... Rick and Cindy Bivens
Ushers Jack Wilfong and James Hall
Altar Preparation..... Herb and Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators Todd Childers and Sheila Drum
Custodian Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

By Rev. Timothy J. Swenson • ILT Dean of Chapel

Palm/Passion Sunday | March 24, 2024



MATTHEW 26:1 – 27:1-27

“And all the people answered, His blood be on us and on our children!” Vs. 25

Pilate, a consummate politician, knew how to please a crowd. He tried for Jesus' release by setting a choice before the people, the choice between Jesus or Barabbas. The people chose Barabbas (vs. 21). Pilate tried again for Jesus' release by protesting Jesus' innocence (vs. 23). The people would have none of it. “Crucify him!” they demanded. Pilate then washed his hands of the whole affair, announcing his own innocence in the matter (vs. 24). Pilate's supposedly innocent hands then handed Jesus over to the people who willingly accepted the guilt. They accepted the blood guilt, not only for themselves, but also for their children: Generations unborn caught up in, and committed to, guilt over the blood of an innocent man.

You! You, a member of this current sinful and adulterous generation, bear the blood guilt in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, an innocent man. In the imagery of the exodus from Egypt, the blood of an innocent lamb was smeared on the doorposts of the people's homes. That innocent blood turned aside the angel of death (Ex. 12:13). You bear the blood guilt of killing the innocent man, Jesus the Paschal Lamb. You wear that blood, and the angel of death passes over you. So that, as Jesus declared to Martha, “...even

though you die, yet shall you live” (cf. Jn. 11:25). Without that guilt, and your bearing of it, death would be the end... the final end... of you.

Perhaps we should give thanks for those ancient exhorters, those chief priests and elders who worked up the crowd into a murderous frenzy. Their persuasion and their exhortations so motivated the crowd that it would be satisfied with nothing less than Jesus' crucifixion. That crowd took on blood guilt for Jesus and committed you of this sinful and adulterous generation to the same wearing of the blood (cf. 1 Pe. 1:18-19).

Table Talk: Discuss the interconnectedness of blood, guilt, and forgiveness.

Pray: Heavenly Father wash me clean in the blood of Jesus Christ. Amen



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