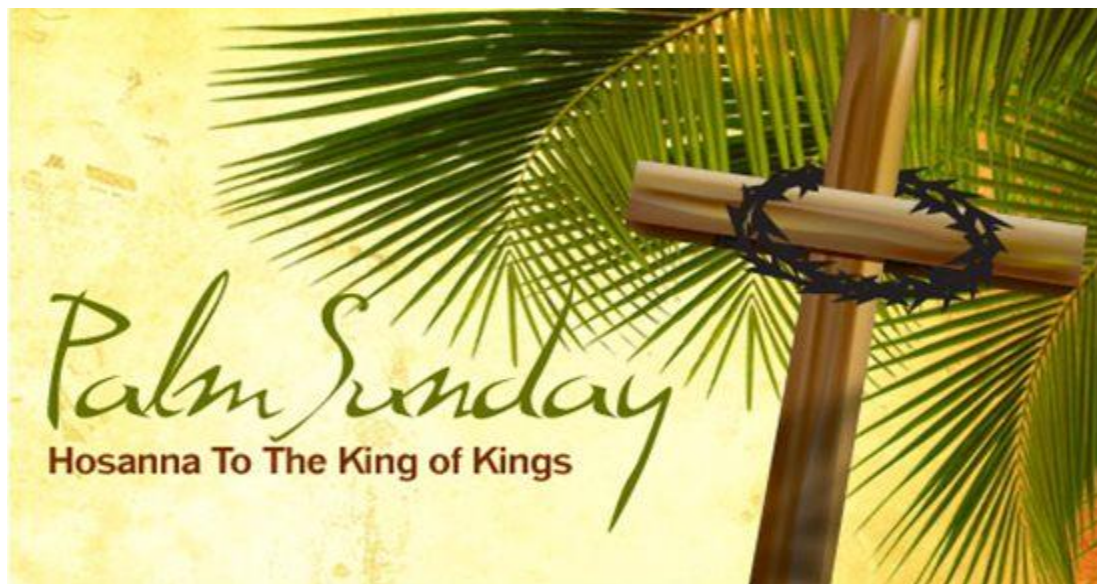


# **Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday**

## **Sunday, April 13, 2025**



## **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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**4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway, Newton, North Carolina 28658**

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**[www.gracelutheran-newton.org](http://www.gracelutheran-newton.org)**

**Rev. Doug Hefner cell: (980) 234-8848 email: [pastorhefner@aol.com](mailto:pastorhefner@aol.com)**

**Sandi Tallant – Organist    Todd Childers – Administrative Assistant**

**Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am to 1pm**

**Tuesday and Thursday 12pm to 4pm**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

### **GATHERING**

*During the prelude, please gather just outside the front of the church, weather permitting, to begin the procession with Palms.*

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

### **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: John 12:12-19**

The Gospel According to St. John   **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” <sup>14</sup>And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, <sup>15</sup>“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!”

<sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup>The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup>The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup>So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

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

### **BLESSING OF PALMS**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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**

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

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR”..... LBW 108**

*(During this hymn we process to our seats and remain standing for the prayer)*

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

1) You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. ***Refrain***

2) The company of angels are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. ***Refrain***

3) The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went.  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. ***Refrain***

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

5) Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious king. ***Refrain***

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY INTRODUCTION**

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Everlasting God, 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.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 53: 4-10**

<sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. <sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God**

### **SECOND READING: 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. The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **PALM SUNDAY / PASSION SUNDAY REFLECTION:**

*“The Greatest Love Story Ever Told” – Pastor Doug Hefner*

#### **The Passion of our Lord According to St. Luke**

(We remain seated as Passion story is read in parts in a dramatic reading using the booklet, “The Passion of Our Lord according to Luke.” The hymns that will be sung through the reading are printed below.)

**Hymn Were You There**

**LBW 92**

**1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

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

**Luke 22:1-53 Pages 1-4 in booklet**

**Hymn: Go to Dark Gethsemane**

**LBW 109**

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- 2 Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;  
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

**Luke 22:54 – Luke 23:31 Pages 5-6, through 1<sup>st</sup> column of 7**

**Hymn Were You There**

**LBW 92**

**2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Luke 23:32 – Luke 23:46 Pages 7 (second column) – 8 (first column through silence)**

**Hymn Were You There**

**LBW 92**

**3. Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Luke 23:37 -Luke 23:56**

**Hymn Were You There**

**LBW 92**

**4. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**\* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD, THE CHURCH**

*(response for each prayer petition L: Lord in Your mercy C: Hear our prayer")*

**\* SHARING OF GODS' PEACE:**

**L:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** And also with you. *(greet others with God's peace)*

**OFFERING**

**HOLY COMMUNION – MEAL OF GRACE**

**\* OFFERTORY**

**Let the Vineyards**

**LBW p. 66**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land and you provide for our every need **C: Receive our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, the passion of our love for you, and transform us into a community of grace at this feast of love that welcomes all, in the name of Jesus Christ, who welcomes us to the feast of Holy Communion.**

**Amen**

**\* DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**

**LBW p. 68**

**\* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**LBW p. 69**

**\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LBW p. 70**

**\* THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**LBW p. 71**

**\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** The Gifts of God for the People of God. **C: Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly may be seated.*

**All are invited to receive Holy Communion**

**HYMN DURING COMMUNION: "My Song is Love Unknown"**

**LBW 94**

**BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your love and grace this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

**PASTORAL BLESSING** The Lord bless you and keep you.... **C: Amen**

**SENDING HYMN: "Old Rugged Cross"**

**TCH 327**

## DISMISSAL

Having the same mind as Christ, let us humble ourselves and live passionately for Christ who gave his life for us. Let us go in peace and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



### **In the Grace Church Family:**

Jeffrey Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss,

Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Michael, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, Nancy Willis, and Jack Wilfong.

**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, Keith Bumgardner, Evelyn Childers, Kathy Rihani, Kelly Wesson, the daughters of Libby and Herb Travis, the United States of America, 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.

**RightNow Media** – Don't forget to activate your free membership to RightNow Media, the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. You should have received an email invitation for FREE access – if you haven't received it yet, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder. To get started, simply click the link in the email, create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing to you and your family!

**Resurrection Celebration and Egg Hunt** - You and your family are invited to Grace's Resurrection Celebration and Egg Hunt this afternoon from 4 to 6 pm. Make plans to enjoy fellowship, presentation of the Gospel story of Jesus, music, crafts, an egg hunt and dinner as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and the victory won for us in Christ!

***Please bring an Easter basket for the egg hunt!***



**Sun., April 13, Palm/Passion Sunday Procession of Palms /Reading of Luke's Passion**

**4:00 to 6:00 pm – Resurrection Celebration w/ Egg Hunt, Games, & Dinner**

**Thurs., April 17, 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service – We will be celebrating a Christian Seder or Passover Meal in Fellowship Hall followed by Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar in the Main Sanctuary.**

**Fri., April 18, 6:30 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service focusing on the seven loving words of Christ spoken from the Cross.**

**Sunday, April 20 Resurrection of our Lord! Sunrise Service at 7:00 am followed by Easter Breakfast. Sunday School at 9:15am, and Easter Service at 10:30am.**

**Special Dates and Events Coming Soon**

**Monday, April 14 at 6:00 pm – Leadership Ministry Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 16 at 12:00 pm – Grace Prayer Luncheon**

**Monday, April 28 at 6:30 pm – Vacation Bible School meeting in Fellowship Hall**

*Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace*

*Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner      Board President – Tim Eckard*

*Lector – Tim Eckard      Youth Leader – Stormy Shull*

*Altar Preparation & Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Sheila Drum*

*Ushers – James Hall & Jacob Jarrett*

*Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Sheila Drum*