



ST. JOHN'S

LUTHERAN † CHURCH

501 Chestnut Street
Emmaus, PA 18049
Phone: 610-965-9885
www.stjohnsemmaus.org

St. John's is a congregation of the Lehigh Mission District, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Palm Sunday **April 2, 2023**

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

- MINISTERS The Baptized People of St. John's
- PASTOR The Rev. Jeffrey S. Carstens
- MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR Timothy M. Ginder
- PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR Denise Mill
- PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT Mary Racek
- OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR Barbara E. Walck
- BOOKKEEPER Anna Galante
- CUSTODIAN Brian P. Dunton
- PASTOR EMERITUS The Rev. Fred S. Foerster

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We pray that as God speaks to us in worship we will be nurtured in Christian faith and equipped for our life of serving love and justice in the world.

St. John's Prayer Chain members pray for your concerns confidentially each day for a week. Request prayers by contacting the Church Office (info@stjohnsemmaus.org or 610-965-9885) or coordinator, Faith Drescher (fdresch@ptd.net or 610- 966-5321).

Let us pray . . .

for our ELCA and our Presiding Bishop The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton;
for our Northeastern PA Synod and our Bishop, The Rev. Christopher deForest;
for our Lehigh Mission District and our Dean, Rev. Nelson Quinones

C=Congregation

A=Assisting Minister

P=Presiding Minister

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Handbell Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

The assembly stands and faces the entrance.

BLESSING OF PALMS

P Blessed is the one 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. 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.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

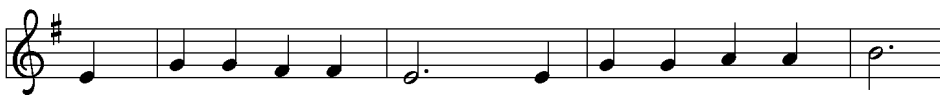
Hymn 344

When all are in their places:

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest.

KYRIE AND HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!



- 1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

ANTHEM

“Hosanna”
Adult Choir

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-10

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

After the reading:

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING:

Psalm 31:9-16

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, “You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”**

SECOND READING :

Philippians 2:5-11

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

After the reading:

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

Listen! You Nations

Refrain



Lis - ten! you na - tions of the world: lis - ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



nounce it from coast to coast; de - clare it to dis - tant is - lands.



1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



he will keep watch o - ver them as a shep - herd watch - es his flock. *Refrain*



2 With shouts of joy they will come, their fac - es ra - diant - ly hap - py, for the



Lord is so gen - 'rous to them; he show - ers his peo - ple with gifts. *Refrain*



3 Young wom - en will dance for joy, and men young and old will make



mer - ry. Like a gar - den re - freshed by the rain, they will nev - er be in want a -



gain. Break in - to shouts of great joy; Ja - cob is free a - gain! Teach



na - tions to sing the song: "The Lord has saved his peo - ple!"

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDRENS' SERMON

Pastor Jeffrey Carstens

SERMON

Pastor Jeffrey Carstens

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Hymn 324

NICENE CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

A Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

Hymn

“Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!”

**Hosanna! Loud hosanna! The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple, the glorious anthem rang;
To Jesus who had blessed them, close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed, ‘midst an exultant crowd,
Waving the victor palm branch, and shouting clear and loud;
Bright angels joined the chorus beyond the cloudless sky:
“Hosanna in the highest: Glory to God on high!”**

**“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heaven, our King.
Oh! May we ever praise Him with heart, and life, and voice,
And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice! A-men.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

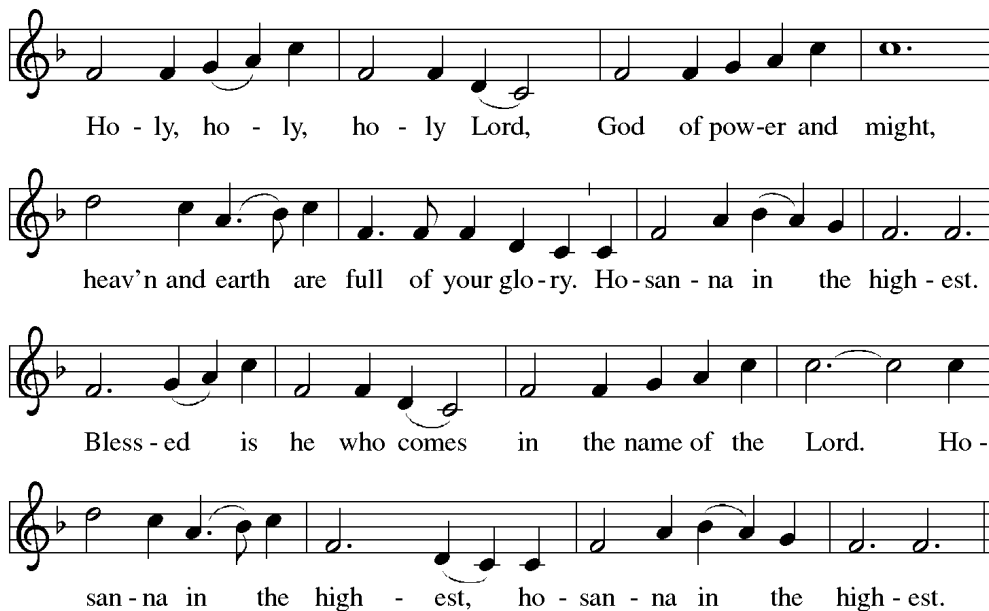
P Lift up your hearts.

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,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. 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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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.

The assembly is seated.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION

P Come to the table prepared for you. Taste the overflowing grace of God.

C **Thanks be to God!**

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We believe and teach that in the Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery.

Those who for reasons of health do not drink wine, commune fully when receiving only the bread. In partaking of either element (bread or wine), the whole Christ is received. Children who have not yet received first communion instruction are welcome at the altar to receive a blessing.

To receive the Sacrament, please follow the direction of an usher to approach the altar via the center aisle. Take a cup from the tray near the baptismal font. Proceed up the steps and around the altar. After you have received the bread and wine, exit through the side rooms, place the communion cup on the tray and re-enter the nave.

Persons who are not able to come to the altar are invited to sit in the first pew on the pulpit side where the Pastor will commune you. Please notify an usher.

HYMN

Adult Choir

After all have communed, the assembly stands.

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

C Amen.

PRAYER

A Embodied 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 touch the world with your love.

C Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and send us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P God, the giver of love,
✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

C Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE