

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran – March 24, 2024
Palm/Passion Sunday

120 North 8th Street, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 9am-12pm, 1-5pm

Phone: 419-294-2831, Fax: 419-294-5542

Pastor Barry Halter, Jr.: 419-852-9823

Listen live on WYNT 95.9 FM or watch on Facebook Live

*=stand as you are able

Assistive listening devices are available. Ask an usher.

Introduction to the day

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.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" Arnold Metzger

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GREETING

*PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL Mark 1:1-11

*BLESSING OF THE PALMS

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

Hymn 344

* Please wave your palms high while singing! Feel free to join the procession!

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

Hosanna in the highest!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & DISMISSAL TO JR. CHURCH

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ADVANCED BELL CHOIR

"Joyful, Joyful" Beethoven/Dobranski

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 31:9-16

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

THE READING OF THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MARK

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Hymn 338

*THE NICENE CREED

p. 104

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

+ MEAL +

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC *"The Garden of Prayer"* Broughton

*OFFERING RESPONSE:

"Praise God from whom all..."

Hymn 885

*OFFERING PRAYER

*COMMUNION LITURGY (spoken)

p. 144-145

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's table – All baptized persons are welcome at the table. If you do not desire to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing. Your wish to receive the Sacrament is indicated by your upturned hands. Those with an aversion to wine may receive grape juice (in the center of the ring) or commune in one kind (bread only). Those with a wheat allergy may commune in one kind (wine only) or request a piece of rice cake. The Lord has prepared the welcome table. Come and eat.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

+ SENDING +

*BLESSING

*SENDING SONG: "Go to Dark Gethsemane" Hymn 347

*DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE *"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"* Zachow

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB121761.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD ON WEDNESDAY is taking a break during Lent. If you would like to study the lessons on your own, they are Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; and Mark 16:1-8.

DURING OUR LENTEN JOURNEY you will also have the opportunity to participate in our Lenten project. A basket with broken tile pieces will be available for you to write a lament or prayer. These will be anonymous and can be brought forward during communion on Sundays. The tiles will then be affixed to a cross at the front of the sanctuary. We hope you will join us.

CHRISTIAN FOOD CENTER: We are collecting paper towels during March. Please place your donations up front. Thanks!!!

EASTER CHOIR: We could use more people to sing in the Easter choir! We will have a short practice after church today. We are especially in need of basses!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Please get your April submissions to Beth by Tuesday. Thanks!

THE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT will take place on Saturday, March 30th at 10am. This is for kids up to the 5th grade. There will be 3 age groups with 3 grand prizes per group and several smaller prizes in each group. It will be held rain or shine! Bring your kids, grandkids & friends for this fun event!

WE NEED HELP placing all of the Easter Eggs out on the lawn on Saturday morning. **PLEASE** sign up at the crosswalk if you can help out for an hour or so! Be here at 9am. Thanks!!!

AN EASTER BREAKFAST will be served next Sunday from 8-9:45am. The proceeds will go toward the upgrade of our outdoor sign.

TEDDY BEAR FUND CAMPAIGN items are being collected at the crosswalk. This is Jacob Halter's National Honor Society project. He is collecting items for Wyandot Memorial to hand out to children. There is a box for monetary donations for this fund as well. Stop and check it out!

THE SEWING LADIES are in need of items to be used in the middle of the quilts. Things like mattress pads, sheets or flannel sheets, old blankets, drapes, etc. Please keep them in mind when you are decluttering your linen closets!!!

BIRTHDAY BAGS are still needed! The list of items is available on the crosswalk table. Please put your filled bags under the table. Thank you to all who help with this ministry!

THE MISSION OUTREACH money budgeted for March will go to the Luke Swavel Memorial Scholarship. We encourage you to join us in donating to them directly throughout this month if you feel so moved. Please send directly to: Luke Swavel Memorial Scholarship, c/o Scott Morris, 18270 Twp Hwy 125, Harpster, OH 43323

Prayers, Concerns and Joys

(Each prayer request will appear for four weeks)

Deb Rife ♥

Dean & Dixie Baumann ♥♥♥♥

Betty Knowlton ♥♥

Natalie Ford ♥

Shannyn Swinehart ♥♥♥♥

Gene & Sheila Roszman ♥♥♥

Emily Swihart ♥

Dave Eippert ♥

If you would like to have a name added to the prayer list,
please contact the church office.
Names can be extended for additional weeks as requested.

MARCH DUTIES:

Acolytes: 24 – Erica Ruhlen & Adrianna Ray
28 (Maundy Thursday) – Abbi Ault & Drew Leightey
31 (7am) – Brody Mays & Ian Seal
31 (10am) – Jocelyn Leightey & Brody Mays

Assisting Ministers: 24 – Jim Ruhlen
28 (Maundy Thursday) – Matt Schultz
31 (7am) – June Eier
31 (10am) – Robbi Sigler

Ushers: Brent Gottfried, Jim Gatchell, Rick Kraus, Gary Ault

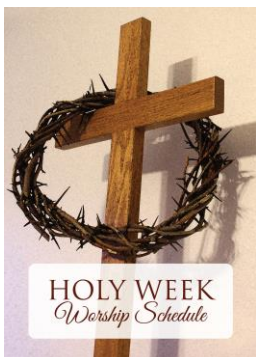
Greeters: Bruce & Sue Decker (west)

Readers: 24 – Courtney Thiel
28 (Maundy Thursday) – Russ Lee
31 (7am) – Becky Vaughn
31 (10am) – Sally Stansbery

Communion Assistants: David & Rosemary Craig

Bread Baker – Michelle Halter

Host in The Gathering Place: 24 – Bill & Jane Bricely
31 (10am) – Michelle Ohler



Maundy Thursday – 8pm

Good Friday – 8pm

Easter Sunrise Service – 7am

Easter Breakfast – 8-9:45am



This Week at Our Church

Today

11am – Choir practice

5-8pm – 4H meeting in Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 25

8:30am – Pinning & knotting

Tuesday, March 26

6:30pm – Cub Scout den meetings

6:30pm – Beginning Bell Choir

7pm – Advanced Bell Choir

Wednesday, March 27

8am-12:45pm – Wyandot Cares classes

12-2pm – Christian Food Center accept donations

Thursday, March 28

1-3pm – Christian Food Center distribute food

8pm – Maundy Thursday worship service

Friday, March 29

8pm – Good Friday worship service

Saturday, March 30

10am – Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 31

7am – Sunrise Service

8am-9:45am – Easter Breakfast served

9am – Choir practice in the sanctuary

9am – Adult Sunday School

10am – Worship

The Heart of the Story

Martin Luther called the Psalms a “little Bible.” He wrote that all the rest of the Holy Scriptures could be found in them. Luther went so far as to suggest that in the Psalms the church can glimpse the death and resurrection of Christ. In these ancient songs and prayers of the Hebrew people, every human emotion is laid bare: joy and contentment, anger and sorrow, hope and despair. The Psalms give voice to the wide spectrum of experiences that mark our human lives. This is their power—they speak the heart’s language, turbulent as our hearts may sometimes be.

In a similar way, Holy Week places us at the center of the whole story of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. From the “hosannas” of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the seeming abandonment of the cross, emotions run high this week as the story of Christ’s passion reaches into the depths of our human experience. The palm and passion stories are themselves a “little Bible” of salvation for the church within the wider story of God’s saving love for all.

As we gather to hear the story of Christ’s passion anew, the words and rituals of the church’s worship life invite us to feel our way into this story from the inside out. We hear the shouts of blessing and come to the Passover in quiet hope. We follow to Gethsemane and to the cross, with mixed emotions. What does betrayal feel like in our bodies? What about amazement? Fear? How have we experienced ridicule or shame? How have we ourselves dismissed or derided others?

The palm and passion stories offer us a chance to contemplate Christ’s sufferings and meditate on our salvation—to come side by side with Christ’s passion and so to know and access our own. We are invited to honestly glimpse the workings of our own hearts. Nothing is off limits to God’s grace. No human experience is untouched by the story of God’s redemptive love.