

*St. Stephen Lutheran Church*  
*March 28, 2021*  
*Palm Sunday*

**Gathering Acclamation**

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

**C: Hosanna to the Son of David.**

**A Reading from St. Mark**

**Mark 11: 1-11**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 11th chapter.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he 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.

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

**\*Blessing of Palms**

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise**

P: We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the Holy City of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path. We ask that you bless this branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **\*Opening Hymn with Procession of Palms**

*"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"*  
Hymn#344 vs. 1,3,4

### **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*
- 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*

## **\*Acclamation and Prayer of the Day**

P: Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

C: **Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.**

**P:** *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.

**Amen.**

### **Word**

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

## **A Reading from Isaiah**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

A reading from the prophet, Isaiah, the 50th chapter.

- <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 awakens—  
awakens 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?

Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks Be to God**

### **Psalm**

**Psalm 31: 9-16**

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.  
<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.**  
<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to | my  
acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street | they avoid me.  
<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;  
I am as useless as a | broken pot.**  
<sup>13</sup>For 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.  
<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.  
I have said, “You | are my God.**  
<sup>15</sup>My times are | in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.  
<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.”**

### **A Reading from Philippians**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

*Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death.*

*Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.*

A reading from St. Paul's epistle to the Philippians, the 2nd chapter.

<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.

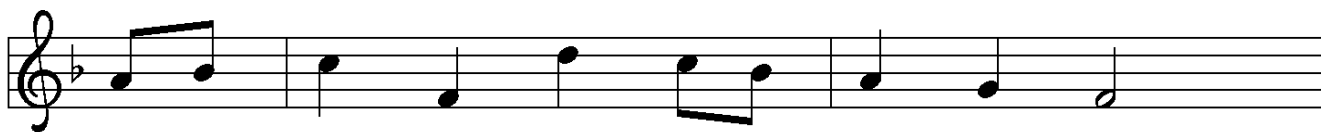
<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks Be to God**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

**\*The Holy Gospel**

**Mark 15: 1-26**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 15th chapter.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

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.'

## **Hymn**

*"Were You There"*

Hymn#353 vs. 1-2

- 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?
- 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?

Text: African American spiritual  
Tune: © 1999, Augsburg Fortress  
Reprinted under One License #A735-517

## **\*The Holy Gospel (continued)**

**Mark 15: 27-37**

<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<sup>\*</sup> 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,<sup>\*</sup> 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<sup>\*</sup> 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.

## Hymn

## "They Crucified My Lord"

Hymn#350 vs. 3-5



- 1 They cru - ci - fied my Lord, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word;
- 2 They nailed him to a tree, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word;
- 3 They pierced him in the side, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word;
- 4 The blood came stream-in' down, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word;
- 5 He hung his head and died, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word;



they cru - ci - fied my Lord, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word;  
 they nailed him to a tree, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word;  
 they pierced him in the side, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word;  
 the blood came stream-in' down, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word;  
 he hung his head and died, and he nev - er said a mum-ba-lin' word;



not a word, not a word, not a word.

*mumbalin' = complaining*

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SUFFERER, African American spiritual

## \*The Holy Gospel (continued)

Mark 15: 38-39

<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!'-

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Reverend Matthew Best

**\*Hymn of the Day**

*"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

Hymn#351 vs. 1,2,4

- 1 O sacred head, now wounded,  
with grief and shame weighed down,  
now scornfully surrounded  
with thorns, thine only crown;  
O sacred head, what glory,  
what bliss till now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory,  
I joy to call thee mine.
- 2 How pale thou art with anguish,  
with sore abuse and scorn;  
how does thy face now languish,  
which once was bright as morn!  
Thy grief and bitter passion  
were all for sinners' gain;  
mine, mine was the transgression,  
but thine the deadly pain.
- 4 Lord, be my consolation;  
shield me when I must die;  
remind me of thy passion  
when my last hour draws nigh.  
These eyes, new faith receiving,  
from thee shall never move;  
for all who die believing  
die safely in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

**Apostle's Creed**

AM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us profess our faith, using the words of the Apostle's 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 Church**

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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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; grant respite and renewal. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God.



**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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

**Amen.**

**\*Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us show a sign of that peace

**Offering**

The offering, whether in person or through digital means, is an act of worship. Worship, at its core, is a reverent love and devotion accorded to God. We give because God loves us first, and we are called to love God and neighbor as a result. The offering is one way we show our love of God.

To assist you in this act of worship, there are several ways to make your offering: Go to [www.StStephenLC.org](http://www.StStephenLC.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page, and click **DONATE**.

Text your offering dollar amount to 717-685-6947. Text "help" for options.

Use Engage from your smart phone or Internet connected device at <https://engage.suran.com/sslc/> or QR code below:



Set up regular electronic offerings by contacting Kevin, our office manager, at 717-766-2168, Monday through Thursday from 9am – 2pm, or by email at [office@StStephenLC.org](mailto:office@StStephenLC.org) to get set up.

Mail in your check, made payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Our address is  
30 W. Main St., PO Box 266, New Kingstown, PA 17072.

The offerings are used to carry out the ministry of the church, to share the Good News, to provide pastoral care, to worship as a community, and to create an environment where Jesus encounters people and their lives are transformed. All of these things continue to take place. Thank you for your generosity.

### \*Offertory Prayer

AM: Let us pray. Faithful God,  
you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

### \*The Great Thanksgiving

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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. You call your  
people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the  
gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

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 handed over, 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:

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

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.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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.

**Amen.**

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

**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**

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

### **\*Blessing**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

### **\*Sending Hymn**

*"There in God's Garden"*

Hymn#342 vs. 1,4,6

- 1 There in God's garden  
stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth  
the healing of the nations:  
Tree of all knowledge,  
Tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.
- 4 See how its branches  
reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says,  
"Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness,  
give me all your sorrow,  
I will give blessing."
- 6 All heav'n is singing,  
"Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy  
healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations,  
take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590-c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982

Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Reprinted under One License #A735-517

### **Dismissal**

**AM:** Go in peace, share the Good News,

**C: Thanks be to God. We will!**

### **Postlude**

*"Herzlich Tut Mich Vergangen"* by Johann Sebastian Bach

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43258.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved