**Palm Sunday**

**March 24, 2024**

**9:30am**



**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

Phone 562-598-2433

www.christlutheranlb.com

Preschool 562-594-6117

www.clplb.com

**Welcome to worship! We’re glad you’re here!**

To assist in your worship:

**bold** print means we respond together

**\*** meansstand as you are able,

+ you may make the sign of the cross should you so desire.

**TODAY’S worship THEME**

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.



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**GATHERING**

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

The congregation gathers in the courtyard to receive palms and begin worship.

**\*WELCOME**

**\*PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL**  Mark 11:1-11 Pew Bible New Testament pg. 48

**\*BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

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

**C: Hosanna in the Highest!**

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of this week. On this day Jesus entered into the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph! The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise!

**Hosanna in the Highest!**

And we know that this path before him led to self-giving, suffering and death. Today we greet Jesus as our King,

**Hosanna in the Highest!**

We know that by the end of this week, His crown is thorns and His throne a cross. We follow Him from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection. We walk with Jesus this morning in celebration of who he truly is: King of kings, and Lord of lords!

**Hosanna in the Highest!**

Let us pray together: **Lord God of our Salvation, help us to enter with joy into the celebration of the mighty acts that show us the way of life and immortality; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

\*PROCESSION OF THE PALMS

**\*PROCESSIONAL SONG** Hosanna! Kim Philips & Lisa Cottrell

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together. *A brief silence***. Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**MUSIC MAKERS** Christ Lutheran Preschool kids

**CHILDREN’S CHAT** *After this time, children will be invited to Sunday school. They will return during the passing of the peace.*

**TEMPLE TALK** Linda Gawthorne Missionary to Colombia

**WORD**

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

**SCRIPTURE READING** Philippians 2:5-11 Pew Bible New Testament pg. 210

**RESPONSIVE PSALM** Psalm 118:19-29 Pew Bible Old Testament pg. 626

19Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.  
**20This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.** 21I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.  
 **22The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.** 23This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.  
**24This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.** 25Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!  
**26Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.** 27The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.  
 **28You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.** 29O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Return to the Lord ELW pg.142*

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**\*GOSPEL** John 12:12-16 Pew Bible New Testament pg. 110

The Holy Gospel according to John the 12th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

**SERMON**  Pastor Nikki Fielder

**\*SERMON SONG** *All Glory Laud and Honor ELW# 344*

*Verses 1,2,4,5*

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**\*NICENE CREED**

**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 THE CHURCH**

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** *Ain't No Rock Gonna Shout for Me* Chancel Choir

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* *ELW #186*

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**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together**, Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

**\*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…

And so, with all the choirs of angels…and join their unending hymn;

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *Holy, Holy, Holy ELW pg.207*

Timeline

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**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

…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.**

…Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

… Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

… blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

We believe that this is Jesus' table. All are welcome and invited to commune.  We serve communion by “intinction”; receive the bread and dip it in the chalice of red wine. Currently we are offering individual communion cups as an alternative to intinction if you so desire. Both wine and grape juice (white) are offered in the tray. Gluten free bread is available; let your server know. Should you choose not to commune, please come forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest.

**lamb of god** *O Lamb of God ELW pg.208*

Table

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**COMMUNION SONG** *Lamb of God ELW #336*

**Verse 1**

Your only Son no sin to hide

But You have sent Him from Your side

To walk upon this guilty sod

And to become the Lamb of God

**Chorus**

Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God

I love the holy Lamb of God

Oh wash me in His precious blood

My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

**Verse 2**

Your gift of love they crucified

They laughed and scorned Him as He died

The humble King they named a fraud

And sacrificed the Lamb of God

**Chorus**

**Verse 3**

I was so lost I should have died

But You have brought me to Your side

To be led by Your staff and rod

And to be called a lamb of God

**Chorus**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray, **Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**\*BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God’s own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW #335*



**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share your bread. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Roger Halvorson

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor**  Rev. Nicole Fielder, pastor@christlutheranlb.com

**Office Manager** Kim Croes, [officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

**Preschool Director** Lisa Clinton, info@clplb.com

**Interim Choir Director** Kim Philips, kimsings@msn.com

**Accompanist** Roger Halvorson

**A/V Technician** Brad Croes

**Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

**It is our joy to worship with your whole family this morning!**

We encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to worship together. If you do need to take a "time out", please do so in the narthex (gathering space at the entry), and return to worship when you are ready. A changing table is located in the restroom off the narthex. Activity bags, filled with crayons, paper and storybooks, are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

**Mission Statement**

Living by Christ’s example, we welcome, serve, and love all through God’s grace.

**Vision Statement**

Embracing the truth that God’s love and grace is for all, Christ Lutheran Church is a vibrant and active community spreading the good news through acceptance, action, and benevolence.

**Our Position**

Christ is ALIVE!

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