**Palm Sunday**

**April 2, 2023**

**9:30am**



**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

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[www.clclb.com](http://www.clclb.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**

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.



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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.

**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL:**  Matthew 21:1-11

**BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

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

**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

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Ain't No Rock Gonna Shout for Me* Chancel Choir

**\*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***. 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.**

*Children invited to Sunday School.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WORD**

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

**SCRIPTURE READING** Philippians 2:5-11

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

**RESPONSIVE PSALM** Psalm 31:9-16

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.”**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**\*GOSPEL**  Matthew 27:11-54

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 27th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

**SERMON**

**\*SERMON SONG** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* #335

 **\*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**

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

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.**

**\*SHARING OF PEACE**

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

**OFFERTORY**



**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** Create in Me a Clean Heart

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**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together**, God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of the gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Jesus Christ, the wellspring of eternal life. 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**



**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe…

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.**

…we praise you, O God, 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**



**COMMUNION SONG** *Just As I Am, without One Plea* #592

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray, **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. Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**\*BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord looks upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN** *Amazing Love*

My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly,

That I, the guilty one, may go free?

*Refrain*

Amazing love, oh what sacrifice, the Son of God giv’n for me;

My debt he pays and my death he dies,

That I might live, that I might live.

And so they watched him die, despised, rejected;

But oh, the blood he shed flowed for me.

*Refrain*

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;

Come, wash your guilt away, live again.

Refrain

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Roger Halvorson

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Interim Pastor**  Rev. Laurie Arroyo, lauriethere@msn.com

**Office Manager** Kim Croes, officemanager@christlutheranlb.com

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

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

**Accompanist** Roger Halvorson

**Percussionist** Nathan Latiolait

**Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

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

**CHILDCARE**

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.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*Christ Is Alive!*

**OUR VISION STATEMENT**

*Christ Lutheran Church is a community of believers committed to praising our Savior Jesus Christ. With his love, we reach out to those in need and welcome all with open hearts. Our worship dynamically combines, word, song and prayer to share God’s incredible message. Having faith in this, we go forth knowing that with God and the power of the Holy Spirit, anything is possible.*

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