

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday — Setting XII

March 24, 2024 / 10:00 am

The Rev. Christephor Gilbert, presiding

Worship begins and ends with music.

The assembly is invited into the practice of silence at these times.

*At the *, please rise in body and spirit*

*Congregation responses are in **bold***

✠ GATHERING ✠

The congregation gathers in the Fellowship Hall

PRELUDE

Joyful Carillon

Michael Bedford

*ACCLAMATION

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

Hosanna in the highest.

*PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 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. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street.

As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

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 THE PALMS**

Those in the congregation raise their branches

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. **Amen.**

***PROCESSION**

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

*Led by the crucifer, the gathered assembly processes through the church/outside,
ending in the Sanctuary*

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

All Glory Laud and Honor

ELW 344, vv.1,3,4

***ACCLAMATION**

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

The Prayer of the Day uses images from the day's lessons to point us toward the scripture readings

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, 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.**

*In the "Word" section of worship, we hear stories from the full history of our faith,
from ancient Israel, to the time of Jesus*

✠ WORD ✠

READING FROM THE FIRST TESTAMENT: Isaiah 50:4-9a

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 wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

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. 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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY HYMN

Pave the Way with Branches

ACS 928

READING FROM THE EPISTLES: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

There in God's Garden

ELW 342, vv.1-3

*The Gospel is read in the midst of the assembly, which is the Body of Christ
The Word is proclaimed, and Christ is present in our midst*

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Mark, and Sarah, and Elizabeth
Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

There in God's Garden

ELW 342, vv.4-6

***APOSTLES' 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 power of 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 PEOPLE**

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

Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ’s suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

Establish peace and justice among the nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. We pray especially for Marianne Swenson and family, Marjean Miller, Jim Aberth, Curt Blodgett, Edith Blodgett, Kay Bolles, Martin Carlson, Kwai Lin Chan, Steven Chartier, Steven Chin, Brad Gentry, Karin Gustafson, Giovanna Ferretti, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Joy Honen, Richard Hurst, Gayle Jaffe, Susan Kane, Richard Krueger, Mary and Earl Kunstman, Chui Yuk Lee, Phillip Liu, Matt M, Norma Nail, Roberta Nestaas, Katrina Neufeld, Arvind Raja, Mary Rife, Nadia Salerno, Shannon Ripp, Danny Scheffel, Alexandru Simovici, Adam Tocci, Bruce and Polly Weston, and Mary Jane Young. Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

Give energy and joy to our pastor, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

For what else does this community pray, aloud or in your hearts?

Silence is kept

The assembly is invited to speak additional prayer concerns aloud

Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life. We pray especially for Fred Ibbetson: welcome him into the arms of your everlasting embrace.

Holy 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.**

***PEACE** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*We bring to God the offering of our entire lives: our time, our talent, and our possessions,
recognizing that they are all gifts from God*

✠ **MEAL** ✠

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Haunted Heart

Schwartz and Dietz

***OFFERTORY HYMN**

Now Is the Time of Grace

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Now Is the Time of Grace'. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a first ending bracket over the first two measures and a second ending bracket over the last two measures. The lyrics are: 'Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.' The second staff continues the melody and has the lyrics: 'Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.'

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.

*This prayer is a pivot from the Word portion of worship,
pointing us toward the Communion Table*

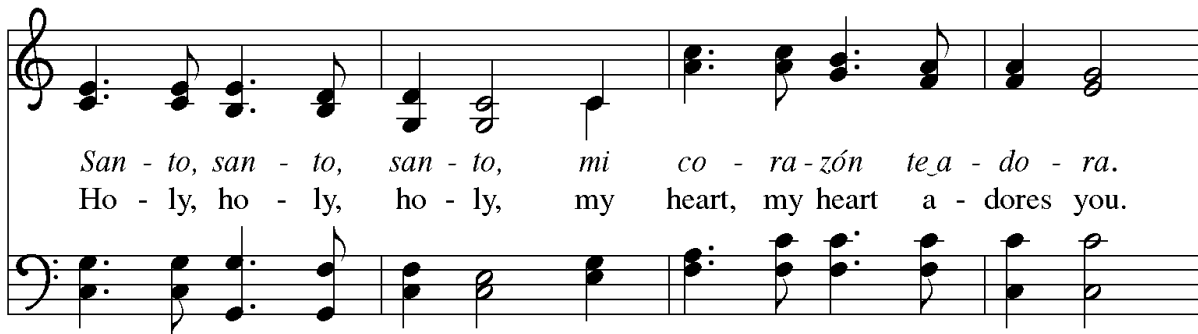
***OFFERING PRAYER**

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.

***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.

The presiding minister continues with the preface, the congregation responds:



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra-zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra-zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

***THE 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.

COMMUNION

Christ Lutheran Church practices Eucharistic hospitality; all baptized Christians who trust in Christ's presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome at the table where Christ is both host and food. Communicants normally receive pita or a gluten-free wafer in open, cupped palms (sometimes laid one over the other in the shape of the cross). Wine (light colored) or grape juice (red/purple) is offered in an individual glass.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Passion Flower

Billy Strayhorn

COMMUNION HYMN

Welcome Table

ACS 969

***TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Sovereign and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

*Another pivot point, this prayer takes us from the table and
points us toward the world into which we are about to be sent*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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 ✠

*Having had an encounter with the living Christ, we are sent back into the world
not as individuals, but as a powerful collective: The Body of Christ*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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**

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

Only Trust Your Heart

Benny Carter

*The paraments for Lent are a gift from Grace Lutheran Church, Needham, upon the conclusion of their
ministry in 2023. We are blessed to steward a piece of their legacy.*

Land and People Acknowledgement | Christ Lutheran Church is located on the original and
ancestral homelands of the Massachusett and Nipmuc Tribes, and we give thanks for their presence
here since time immemorial. We are located on land settled by the Praying Indians of Natick and give
thanks for their continuing presence in this area. We wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous
siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 24, 2024

SUNDAY	Mar 24	10:00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Sacrament (Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday)
		11:15 am	Fellowship Hour
MONDAY	Mar 25	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Office Hours
TUESDAY	Mar 26	8:00 – 1:00	Office Hours
		7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	SLAA 12-Step Group: Pentecost
WEDNESDAY	Mar 27		Office Closed
THURSDAY	Mar 28	8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Office Hours
		11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Bells Rehearsal
		7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
		7:30 pm – 8:45 pm	Clean and Serene: Memorial
FRIDAY	Mar 29	8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Office Hours
		7:30 pm	Good Friday Service
		8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	SLAA Augustinian Fellowship: Pentecost
SATURDAY	Mar 30	4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Bells Rehearsal
		8:00 pm	Vigil of Easter
SUNDAY	Mar 31	10:00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Sacrament (The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday)
		11:15 am	Fellowship Hour

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, March 28 @ 7:30 pm: Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 29 @ 7:30 pm: Good Friday Service

Saturday, March 30 @ 8:00 pm: Vigil of Easter

Sunday, March 31 @ 10:00 am: Easter Sunday Service

COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday, March 24 | Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Monday, March 25 | Annunciation of Our Lord

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Friday, March 29 | Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev Christephor Gilbert, Pastor

Tom Berryman, Music Director

Gail Weston-Roberts, Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator

Kim Petot, Bell Choir Director

Today's Worship Leaders:

Assisting Minister Carol Virshbo

Communion Assistant Lisa Chan

Readers Beth Castro, Martha Cronin, Lisa Eck, Edie Lohr,
Hannele Saramo-Raja, Gail Weston-Roberts, Ellen Zagajeski

Musicians CLC Bells, CLC Choir

Jazz Trio: Ross Petot, piano; Billy Novick, reeds; Peter Tillotson, bass

Altar Guild Phil Roberts and Carol Virshbo

Greeters Edie Lohr and Lisa Eck

Tellers Audrey Colson and Ellen Zagajeski

Broadcast Team Comlanvi Agbodjinou and Rolf Larson

Fellowship Hosts Juliet Seaberg and Robin & Richard Hurst

LEADERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Frank Miller, Financial Secretary

Celeste Larson, Social Justice

Phil Roberts, Worship, Music,
and the Visual Arts

Russell Pollard, Mutual Ministry

Mary Avalos and Robin Hurst, Family Promise

Cathy Gallagher, Altar Guild

Lisa Chan, Card Ministry

Carol Virshbo, Fellowship Hour

John Whitlock, Finance and Property

Kathleen Kirleis, Endowment

George Hall, Stewardship

Lisa Chan, Visitation

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Celeste Larson (2026), President

Edie Lohr (2025), Treasurer

David Ripp (2025), Vice President

Ellen Zagajeski (2025), Secretary

Mary Avalos (2024)

Elinor Holm (2024)

Sandy Smith (2024)

Diane Stevens (2024)

John Whitlock (2025)

Audrey Colson (2026)

Martha Cronin (2026)

Carol Virshbo (2026)

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