



Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord

St. John's Lutheran Church

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

The Sunday of the Passion

March 24, 2024

✠ THE ORDER FOR INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

PRELUDE: **“Festival Flourish”** set by David Lasky

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

Pastor: Let us pray. Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL *John 12: 12–19 (The triumphal entry)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, *“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”* And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, *“Fear not, daughter of Zion, behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”*

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, *“You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him.”*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

THE HYMN *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (# 442)*

At the conclusion of the hymn, the people raise their palm branch and respond:

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna in the highest!**

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 50: 4–10 Ms. Cheryl Wulfert*

The Lord God has given Me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning He awakens; He awakens My ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. I gave My back to those who strike, and My cheeks to those who pull out the beard: I hid not My face from disgrace and spitting.

But the Lord God helps Me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set My face like a 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 is My adversary? Let him come near to Me. Behold, the Lord God helps Me; who will declare Me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of His servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE EPISTLE *Philippians 2: 5–11* *Ms. Cheryl Wulfert*

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDRENS' MESSAGE

THE SERMON

✠ THE PASSION HISTORY ✠

The First Reading *John 18. 1-11* *Mr. Don Henderson*

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, "*Whom do you seek?*" They answered Him, "*Jesus of Nazareth.*" Jesus said to them, "*I am He.*" Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "*I am He,*" they drew back and fell to the ground. So He asked them again, "*Whom do you seek?*" And they answered, "*Jesus of Nazareth.*" Jesus answered, "*I told you that I am He. So if you seek Me, let these men go.*" This was to fulfill the word that He had spoken: "*Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one.*" Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, "*Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?*"

THE HYMN by the Choir *"What Wondrous Love is This, O My Soul"*

The Second Reading John 18: 12-27 *Mr. Don Henderson*

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter stood outside the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter, *"You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?"* He said, *"I am not."* Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. (Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.)

The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. Jesus answered him, *"I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them: they know what I have said."* When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, *"Is that how You answer the high priest?"*

Jesus answered him, *"If what I said is wrong, bear witness about what is wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?"* Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, *"You also are not one of His disciples, are you?"* He denied it and said, *"I am not."* One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, *"Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"* Peter again denied it, and at once the rooster crowed.

THE HYMN by the Choir *"Surely He Has Borne Our Griefs"*

The Third Reading John 18: 28 – 19: 16a *Mr. Steven Anderson*

They then led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said, *"What accusation do you bring against this man?"* They answered him, *"If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you."* Pilate said to them, *"Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law."* They said to him, *"It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death."* This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

So Pilate entered his headquarters and called Jesus and said to Him, *"Are You the King of the Jews?"* Jesus said to him, *"Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?"* Pilate answered, *"Am I a Jew?"* Jesus answered, *"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world."* Then Pilate said to Him, *"So You are a king?"* Jesus answered, *"You say I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice."* Pilate said to Him, *"What is truth?"*

After he had said this, he went outside to the Jews and told them, *"I find not fault in Him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"* They cried out again, *"Not this man, but Barabbas!"* Now Barabbas was a robber.

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. They came up to Him, saying, *"Hail, King of the Jews!"* and struck Him with their hands. Pilate went out to them again and said to them, *"See I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him."* So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, *"Behold the man!"* When the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, *"Crucify Him, crucify Him!"* Pilate said them, *"Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."* The Jews answered Him, *"We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God."*

When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, *"Where are You from?"* But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to Him, *"You will not speak to me? Do you not know I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?"* Jesus answered him, *"You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin."*

From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, *"If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes Himself a King opposes Caesar."* So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgement seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, *"Behold your king!"* They cried out, *"Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!"* Pilate said to them, *"Shall I crucify your king?"* The chief priests answered, *"We have no king but Caesar."* So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

THE HYMN by the Choir and the Congregation *"Alas! And Did My Saviour Bleed"*

Alas! And did my Saviour bleed and did my Sovereign die?

Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

(Verse two by the choir) Well might the sun...

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;

Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.

The Fourth Reading John 19: 16b-30 *Rev. Philip Vangen*

So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read *"Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."* Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, *"Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said I am King of the Jews.'"* Pilate answered, *"What I have written I have written."*

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, *“Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.”* This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, *“They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”*

So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, *“Woman, behold your son!”* Then He said to the disciple, *“Behold, your mother!”* And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), *“I thirst.”* A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, *“It is finished,”* and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

(Moment of Silence to reflect on the death of Christ.)

THE HYMN by the Choir *“Jesus Died on Calvary’s Mountain”*

The Fifth Reading John 19: 31-42 *Mr. Steve Anderson*

Since it was the day of Preparation, and so the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness – his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth – that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled, *“Not one of His bones will be broken.”* And another Scripture says, *“They will look on Him whom they have pierced.”*

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, and since the tomb was at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HYMN by the Choir and the Congregation *"Were You There"*

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?

(Verse two is sung by the choir): Were you there...

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH *The Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, by Your righteousness deliver our souls, which are precious in Your sight. Embolden our hearts to pray, confident that Christ prays with us.
Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, as the institution of Your new testament is celebrated this day among all peoples, make Your saving power known throughout the earth. Grant that those who boast in the sacrificial gift of Christ share Him with the world He came to bless. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, You have formed us after the pattern of Christ's humble service. Help us in our vocations to follow His example of self-sacrifice.
Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God of Israel, we rally to Your altar in the wilderness of this world. Hear our prayers for [_____ and] all those who are sick. Refresh them in their suffering, comfort them with Your Word, and nourish them in body and soul. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Host, You welcomed the elders of Israel to eat and drink with You and did not lay Your hand on them. As You welcome us to Your altar to eat and drink our Lord's Supper, do not lay Your hand on us, but count us worthy to receive forgiveness, life and salvation. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gather us, heavenly King, around Your Son's altar and throne with angels and saints. Bless our fellowship on earth, that at length we come to share this feast in eternal life. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things; redeem us, O Lord, faithful God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

THE PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS *“Holy, holy, holy”, p. 208*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
 Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
 Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
 Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Holy are You, O Lord, God of power and might, and great is the majesty of Your glory, for You did so love the world that You gave Your only-begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Recalling all that He accomplished—His life-giving passion and death, His glorious resurrection from the dead, His ascension to Your right hand, and His promise to bestow His Spirit upon us—we give You thanks and beg Your mercy that we who commune this day may be filled with all heavenly benediction and peace. We rejoice in the gift of forgiveness for our many sins and are renewed by Your grace to serve You in holiness and righteousness all our days. To You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, in Your Holy Church, both now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: *“Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”*

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: *“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray: ***"Our Father..."***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

THE AGNUS DEI *"Lamb of God", p. 210*

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, have mercy on us, Lord we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord we pray.

THE DISTRIBUTION

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (# 443)

"No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet" (# 444)

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (#449)

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *“Song of Simeon”, p. 211*

**O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heavenly peace;
For I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be;
God’s triune name resounding through all eternity.**

THE POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: *Let us pray.*

We give thanks to You, almighty God, for the gift of forgiveness won by Your Son’s offering on the cross and for the strengthening of our souls and bodies by His body and blood. Go with us now and keep us steadfast in Your Word through the blessed days of this great and Holy Week and, beyond that, to our eternal life with Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

THE HYMN *“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” (# 441)*

POSTLUDE: Organ Symphony VI – Allegro Charles Marie Widor

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Calvary’s Mountain: A Cantata for Passiontide by John Leavitt. Used by permission.

Palm Trees – were donated by Felix & Jean Elizabeth Hamilton

Palms – were donated by Bruce & Kathleen Sawicki

If you do not wish to keep your palms from today, please return to the container. Tiffany would like to use them this week for chapel. Thank you!

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Rob & Kathy Schwabe in honor of John's birthday.

Worship Assistants: 8:30am – Bill Thorpe; Rich Essbach **10:30am** – Mark Meier, Steve Anderson

Lector: 8:30am – Claudia Essbach **10:30am** – Cheryl Wulfert

Altar Guild for March: Teresa Pyrtle, Renee Henderson

Crisis Control Item for March: Canned Meats (Chicken, Tuna, Salmon, etc.)

If you would like to donate food to Crisis Control, please drop the food off in the basket in the back of the church. – **89 lbs. was collected for the month of February. Thank you for your donations!**



Our Sunday Worship - Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Class begins at 9:45 a.m.

A Great Place to Grow in Christ

As a part of our outreach ministry, we have a

Preschool/Pre-K program and Kindergarten through 5th grade.

All programs/grades have full-time care available.

Guest Speaker: Pastor Philip Vangen

Tiffany Banks, Principal

Michael Zeoli, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship

Frances Burmeister, Director of Music for Traditional Worship

Church Office Hours Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.