

Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise.

Matthew 21:16

After Jesus cleared the temple of the people who were selling animals, people who were blind or lame started coming to Him there to be healed. There were little children in the temple that day, too, probably there with their parents to worship. The little ones began shouting praise to Jesus: “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

This got the religious leaders upset. “Do You hear what they’re saying?” they asked Jesus. Apparently they wanted Him to stop the children. But Jesus quoted from the book of Psalms, asking, “Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise’?”

The second “You” Jesus mentioned is God Himself, who has called even babies and children to praise Him. It seems strange that God would want praise from the weakest and lowliest of people—from children. But He does. He treasures it. In God’s eyes, “the last will be first, and the first last” (Matthew 20:16).

This is good news for us, too, because if we admit the truth about ourselves, we are just as weak and lowly as little children are. More, perhaps, because we are more experienced in wickedness. We may have more years than they do, but we have not used those years wisely. We desperately need a Savior.

And so with the little children we cry out “Hosanna!” The word “hosanna” has become an expression of praise, but in Hebrew it literally means, “Please save us.” Jesus hears our cry. Through His suffering, death, and resurrection, He has become our Savior. And now we cry out in glad joy, praising Him along with the children—and with all creation.

THE PRAYER

Lord God, we praise You for being our Savior. Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What is the most recent thing you recall praising God for?

Can you recall a time when you were deeply impressed by a child’s praise or words about God? If so, tell the story.



Sunday, March 24, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Grace Lutheran Church Welcomes You to Worship

202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota

605-886-5737

**Web Site: glwtn.org
gracelc@midconetwork.com**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

ELW 344

OPENING LITANY

Look! The King is coming into the city at last.

Hosanna! The King comes to save his people.

Look! The King is coming, riding on a lowly donkey.

Hosanna! The King comes to us in humility.

Look! The King is coming with no sword.

Hosanna! The King comes to us with peace.

Look! The King is coming without soldiers and without an army.

Hosanna! The King comes to us with compassion and mercy.

Look! The King is coming with resolute determination and purpose.

Hosanna! The King comes to us to accomplish God’s will.

Look! The King is coming with tears and sorrow.

Hosanna! The King comes to us to suffer and to die.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

PALM SUNDAY PRAYER AND CONFESSION:

Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and later pronounced, “Crucify him,” we are fickle people who often deny Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Remembering the events of Jesus’ last week helps us see ourselves for what we are: sinners in need of a savior, a savior—praise God—we have in Christ. In honesty and hope, we confess now our sins to God.

Ever living God,
Even as the hosannas echo in our ears, we acknowledge before you the times we have been reluctant to walk in your way. We confess that we have resisted your call to live in the community as servants of one another. Our hearts and our wills need your cleansing and restoration. O King of glory, form in us the humility and patience, the kindness and suffering love that reflect your glory. Then shall the world know that you are our God and we are your people. Through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior, we pray. Amen.
Our hope is in Christ alone. He calls us to himself, healing our brokenness and making us whole. We turn to him and he saves us by his grace. Thanks be to God.

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7
Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11
Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 256)
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna is the highest.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

SERMON: "Which Parade?" **By: Jack Holmquest**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross" **ELW 335**

THE 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 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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

THE OFFERING FOR THE MISSION & MINISTRY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE OFFERING SONG "We Are An Offering" **ELW 692**



THANK YOU TO THIS WEEKS'S PULPIT SUPPLY: JACK HOLMQUEST
ADULT USHERS: GERI MOHROR AND SHARON GOBEL
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: SCOTT MOELLER AND LINDSEY MOELLER
READER: DEE HAUGAN

Thrivent Choice Dollars

It is time again to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to GLC!
If you are a Thrivent customer, contact your agent to see how you can do this!

Service times for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are as follows:
Thursday 6:00PM - Sanctuary
Friday 6:00PM - Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY WILL HOLD ONE SERVICE AT 8:30AM.
THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS PLANNED FOR APRIL 28, 2024.

Scrip is available in the church office for the following retailers and restaurants:
County Fair, Hy-Vee, Starbucks, Wal-Mart, Target, Applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Pizza Ranch, and Burger King!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OR PRAYER REQUEST PLEASE EMAIL OF-
FICEGRACELC@MIDCONETWORK.COM

THIS WEEK MARCH 24-31

SUNDAY 3/24 **8:30AM - PALM SUNDAY SERVICE WITH JACK HOLMQUIST**
9:30AM - COFFEE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
9:45AM - EASTER EGG HUNT
11:00AM - ALL KIDS SING

MONDAY 3/25 **1:00PM - DORCAS QUILTERS**
5:30PM - BANQUET MEAL

TUESDAY 3/26 **4:30PM - TOPS**

WEDNESDAY 3/27 **11:00AM - TOPS**
5:30PM - WEDNESDAY MEAL
6:30PM - CONFIRMATION
7:30PM - YOUTH GROUP

THURSDAY 3/28 **6:00PM - MAUNDY THURSDAY**

FRIDAY 3/29 **OFFICE CLOSED**
6:00PM GOOD FRIDAY

SUNDAY 3/31 **EASTER SUNDAY * ONE SERVICE AT 8:30AM**
****COFFEE & BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW SERVICE****

MONDAY 4/1 **OFFICE CLOSED**

THE OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in Christ's Passover from death to new life, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God, most holy and humble, plant in your church Christ's spirit of humility. Remove any barriers preventing us from seeing his saving work on the cross. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal your will for all creation through stones, seas, mountains, and meadows. In the splendor of what you have made, show us your care for everything, both great and small. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rescue those who suffer torture, and free those held captive by others. Bring to light the hidden systems that perpetuate injustice among your people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour courage and hope into people who feel like they are wasting away in distress and grief. Restore their trust in you, even as you meet their every need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Open our hearts and minds to receive the words that you speak. Give us words to encourage the weary and to sustain one another in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gather your saints into the new covenant that Christ has established for all creation. When we fall into sin, continually renew us until Christ dwells with us again in fullness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Attend to the needs of the whole world with your saving grace, and lead us all into new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER SONG:

"Hear Our Prayer"

ELW 178

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS

"Lamb of God"

ELW 154

"Were You There"

ELW 353

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

ELW 351

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May God, whose arms were spread on the cross to embrace the whole world, help us this week to take up the cross and follow him. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR (ELW 344)

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

2 The company of angels are praising you on high; creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. 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

5 Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O good and gracious

FIRST READING: EXODUS 17:1-7

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Word of Gog, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM: 118:1-2, 19-29

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's mercy endures forever.

2 Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

20 "This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter."

21 I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

SENDING SONG: BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS (ELW 338)

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and burdens of the day.

2. Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.

3. I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.

THE RADIO BROADCAST TODAY IS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROY AND DORIS SCHMELING FROM THE SCHMELING RADIO FUND. ALTAR FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY DIANE HANSON, RICH ROBERTS, AND ROD & DIXIE SWOBODA IN LOVING MEMORY OF THEIR MOTHER, IRENE ANDERSON'S HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY.

Prayer concerns:

Rhys Arnold, Roy Arnold, Shannon Beck, Allen Benson, Denise Biller, Danny Brekke, Dennis Carlson, Dick Everson, Harper Evjen, Ted Frost, Greg Gross, Kristi Herting, Sylvia Larson, Lavern McPeek, Elvira Moen, Rick Raml, Roger Rust, Lynn Schaefer, Tracy Schaefer, Kaisley Schulz, Tori Simon, Robert Steen, Raef Stolp, Ron Urban, Ashlea West, Robert Wittrock, Sandra Wittrock, Harley & Marilyn Peterson, James Gobel, those in Care Centers, Assisted Living, or who are homebound. Pray for members of the Armed Forces and their families, transportation personnel, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters EMTs and all First Responders. Pray for our Church during this transition period.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION: O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED (ELW 351)

**O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighted down,
how scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
yet, through despised and glory, I joy to call thee mine.**

**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.**

**What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.**

**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.**



PRAYER SONG: HEAR OUR PRAYER (ELW 178)

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer. Lord, make us whole:

peace to all people, hope for each soul.

God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

23 By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Hosanna! O Lord, save us! We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!

26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 The Lord is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar

28 You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's mercy endures forever.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:1-11

1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

1 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." 4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 5 "Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" 10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" 11 The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Glory to you, O Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY: JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS (ELW) 335

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me; there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. Refrain

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. Refrain

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever, till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. Refrain



COMMUNION SONG: LAMB OF GOD (ELW 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



COMMUNION SONG: WERE YOU THERE (ELW 353)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there?

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?

Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you there?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you there?
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you there?