

Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.
Bismarck ND 58501

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Winter Hours. Mon.– Thursday 8–4pm Fri 8 to noon

Summer Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am—noon

Staff:

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Gerri Sarsten, Joel and Jan Gilbertson, Beth Greff **Accompanists**

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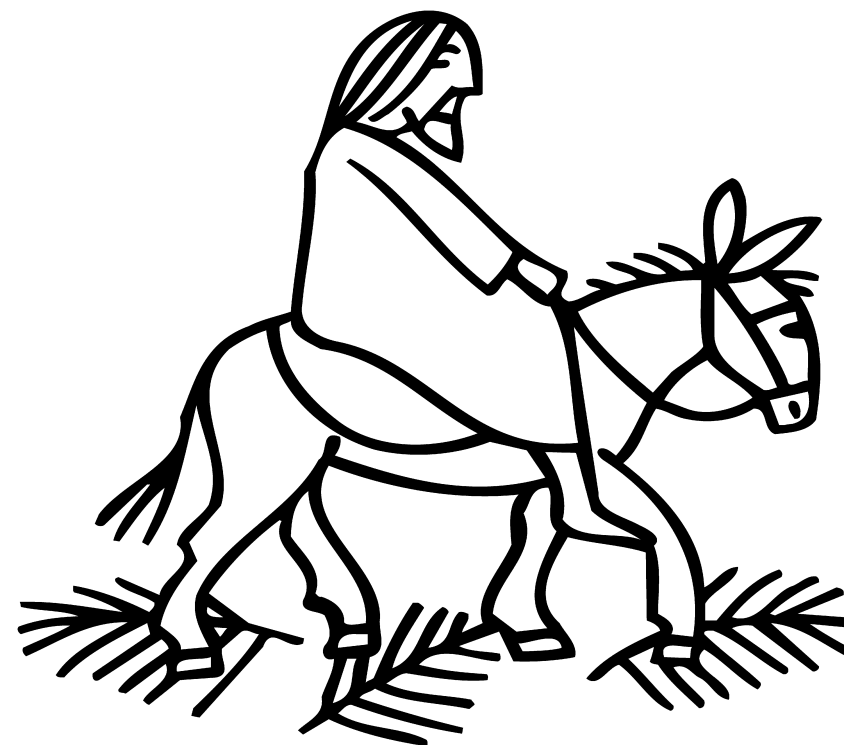
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

March 24, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday

WE COME TOGETHER

You are invited to sing with the Worship Team as we gather for worship. All songs and worship liturgy will be projected on the screens for your use.

PRELUDE MUSIC

“At the Cross”, Prelude Special Music Gayla Sherman, Harp

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: MARK 11:1-11

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and 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. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

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

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then 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.

PROCESSIONAL SONG: *“Wave the Palms (Hosanna!)”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Peeps Dioramas Return!

The dioramas will be displayed for all to enjoy on Easter Sunday! Look for them in the multipurpose room.

Paul Gurholt, John Kraft, and Mike Humann have transformed the fellowship hall and multipurpose room by way of hanging sound proofing panels to quiet the noise levels in both rooms. Thank you for the manpower, time, and skills that you 3 provided to tackle this job this week. The panels were a gift from the estate of Maxine and Bryce Hill (for all three rooms.)

Altar Focus During Lent, we traditionally do our “**Sweet Deal for CAR**” project. We will continue this project, which supports our sister Lutheran church in the Central African Republic, until Easter. Also :**Closet 701** 2306 E. Broadway Ave. is a ministry in town that gives away clothing and now kitchen wares to those in need. One thing always in great need – and that must be new, not used – is; underwear— children or adult sizes; particularly knit boxers for men.



Palms and Pancakes TODAY on Palm Sunday, March 24! This one, on Palm Sunday, has become a custom to support Missouri Slope, the Lutheran care center our members helped form some 60 years ago. Come and enjoy.

Thank you to the Faith and Care Groups who have and are serving the Lenten Soup Suppers. You are appreciated!

First Communion Class Our “usual” age for first communion class is third grade; however, we have a group of first grade and older students interested in learning more about communion. Your child is invited to come to a class on Saturday, March 23, noon to 2 pm where we will bake communion bread with an altar guild mentor, and learn some things while it is baking. That bread will be used for worship on Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7 pm, where this group will celebrate First Communion. Please let Pastor Lisa know your child is coming, so we can plan appropriately for ingredients, and if you have questions. ** Also, please have your child (you, too, ideally!) watch “The Prince of Egypt” before this class.** It is a Disney movie from 1998. You can stream it if you prefer, or the church has 4 copies of the DVD to lend. You will find the copies in the pastor’s plastic bin just outside her door.

Longtime member **Arnie Metzger** died. His funeral, at Parkway, will be April 2 at 12:30. Lunch following the service with burial at the ND Veterans Cemetery at 3pm that day.

Thank you to all who have contributed to Heat the Church program again this year. Thank you for remembering a special person in your life, a significant event.

NO Quilting on Maundy Thursday.

Until further notice, please do not bring more plastic grocery bags. Thank you!

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” ELW 344

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

- ⁴The 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 awakens—
awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
- ⁶I 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.
- ⁷The 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;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
- ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also.

¹⁰**For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹²**I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.**

¹³For I hear the whispering of many —
terror all around! —
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God."**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Cross, and to “The River” Blended Worship Service this morning! If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to sign the guestbook in the narthex.

Holy Week Worship Services

Palm/Passion Sunday March 24 10 a.m.
with procession of Palms and reading of the Passion
Pancake & Sausage Breakfast following service

Maundy Thursday March 28 7 p.m.
with celebration of First Communion

Good Friday March 29 7 p.m.
Tenebrae service of shadows

Ecumenical Easter Vigil March 30 7 p.m.
at Lord of Life Lutheran, 1143 N. 26th St in Bismarck

Easter Sunday March 31 8:00 a.m. and 10 a.m.
with continental breakfast between services

Book Club Choices: Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library.

April: The Paris Daughter by Kristen Harmel

May: The Midwife's Song by Brenda Ray

June: The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters

July: To Heaven & Back by Mary C. Neal

Consider coming to the Book Club. We have interesting and lively discussions of each book. A variety of subjects are read but usually works of fiction.

Today we welcome **Gayla Sherman** to Lutheran Church of the Cross. Gayla is the Foundation Director at Missouri Slope and also a professional Harpist. She is graciously playing Harp for us during today's worship service. She will also be available during Palms and Pancakes to visit or answer any questions about Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center. Welcome, Gayla!

WEEKLY CALENDAR of March 24, 2024

Today, March 24:	Palm Sunday River Service 10:00am Pancake Breakfast 11am
Monday, March 25:	Needlework Group 9:00am
Tuesday, March 26:	
Wednesday, March 27:	Women's Bible Study 9am River practice 7pm
Thursday, March 28:	Maundy Thursday Worship with First Communion <u>NO</u> Quilting 1pm AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, March 29:	Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7pm
Saturday, March 30:	Easter Vigil Service 7pm at Lord of Life
Sunday, March 31:	Easter Sunday 8am & 10am Services Brunch between services

Future Happenings

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "All Hail King Jesus"

GOSPEL READING: Mark 14:1-15:47 See the booklet for the reading.

SONG OF THE DAY: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" ELW 351

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: "I Love You, Lord"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: "Remember Me"

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER *"Thy Will Be Done"*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *Communion Meditation* Gayla Sherman, Harp

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION Spoken

SENDING SONG: *"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"* ELW 338

DISMISSAL: (Depart Quietly)

INTRODUCTION:

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.

"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Marlene Grabow

Greeters—Scot & Melissa Long

Ushers— Lee Jensen, Art Wheeler, Steve & Cheryl Neu

Communion Assistants—Ruth Jensen, Sheila Koffler, Heather Martin

Altar Guild—Jean Kraft, Cheryl Neu, Sharon Narum, Joyce Wahl, Cherie Krueger

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians— Larry Wolf, Francis Greff

Projection Team— Caden Kunze, Jace Kunze, Rod Sargent, Art Wheeler

Streaming Team— Mark Kunze, Karen Will, Art Wheeler

River Singers— Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, John Saylor, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson

Guitarists—Tom Wade, Kolton Harris, Joel Crane

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Flutist—Beth Greff

Accompanists—Jan & Joel Gilbertson, Gerri Sarsten, Beth Greff

Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns

Please contact Connie in the church office if you have a prayer request, or if you will be entering the hospital and would like a pastoral visit.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(We encourage you to take this list home and pray for these people.)

For those struggling with health and other concerns:

Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Erwin and Linda Marson, Arlene Wolff, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Josey Hanson, Jeff Thomas, Jean King, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Jacob Walby, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Saylor, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Elizabeth Hoglund, Diane Klein, Kaylynn Harris, Pam Morris, Jaden Kunze, Shiela Mugaas, Libby Martin, Robyn Richter, Deacon Janie Hague, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Lynn Brackel

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones— Arnie Metzger, Marty Marchello