**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to 1620 AM\***

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Acclamation**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessing of Palms**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

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

**Gathering Hymn: “All Glory, Laud and Honor” ELW 344**

***As we sing, people are invited to throw their palm branches onto the rocks at the base of the Cross*. Children are invited to wave their palms as they walk in the parking lot. (Please wear masks when leaving your cars and keep a distance as you are out of your cars.)**



**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**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 together.

**Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.** **Amen.**

**First Reading** **Zechariah 9:9-12**

A reading from Zechariah.

9Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
 Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
 Lo, your king comes to you;  
 triumphant and victorious is he,  
 humble and riding on a donkey,  
 on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
 10He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
 and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
 and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
 and he shall command peace to the nations;  
 his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
 and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
 11As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
 I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.  
 12Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
 today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** **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.  
**10For 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.  
**12I 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.  
**14But 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.  
 **16Let your face shine upon your servant;  
 save me in your steadfast love.**

**Second Reading** **Philippians 2: 5-11**

A reading from Phillippians.

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.  
 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Return to the Lord, your God,**

**for he is gracious and merciful,**

**slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Gospel** **Mark 11: 1-11**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

1When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb Speese**

**Hymn of the Day** **“Christ the Life of all the Living “ ELW 339**



**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**prayers of Intercession**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified. We pray especially for St. Matthew Lutheran Church and Rev. Rheanna Goodrich. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer; grant respite and renewal. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You called followers to tend Jesus’ body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation’s ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. 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.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

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.

**Lord’s Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you. You may receive your communion elements.

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement

grant you to live in harmony with one another,

in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land” ELW 333**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED TODAY:**

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Paul Meade**

**Trustee: Mike Johnson**

**Offering Counters: Mary Makley and Martha Yoder**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* + **Newsletter deadline will be next week Wednesday.**
  + Zion’s church council has decided that drive in services will be held through Easter Sunday and are shooting for starting in church services on April 11 if the case numbers continue to stay in the same range.
  + **Easter Flowers:** It’s time to put in your orders for our Easter flower garden. Lilies are not going to be an option in the event that we are outside, as they will not hold up well if it’s chilly. Each flower costs $8.95 and comes in a 6 inch pot. The choices are Miniature daffodils, Red or White Tulips, and Blue, Purple or White Hyacinths.
  + **Easter Egg Hunt:** Zion will host an Easter Egg Hunt for our youth members (no age restrictions) immediately following the Easter morning service. We’re excited to bring some normalcy to a year that as affected us and our children.  
    We will be purchasing the candy and Mary Makley will be organizing a time for small groups of volunteers to fill the eggs at church. Please watch the bulletin for more updates or contact Martha or Jolene with questions.
  + **Zion to host Christmas tree farm:** As you start spring cleaning or visiting garage sales, be on the lookout for artificial Christmas trees and ornaments to donate. In conjunction with the Christmas Around the Town we will host a Christmas Tree Farm at Zion for those in need to get the decorations to bring some holiday cheer to their homes. We’ll share more details as it gets closer. Please contact Martha or Jolene with questions.
  + **Zion is starting a tech team to do the live stream for our services. Paul Meade will be glad to train people. Please let Pastor Becky or Paul know if you would like to serve in this way.**
  + Council has voted to suspend in-person services until the positivity rate drops to 3%. People may continue to listen to the service in the parking and live-streamed.