**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023**

**\*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.**



**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 Philippians.

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**



**Gospel** **Matthew 21: 1-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

1When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying 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. 3If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." 4This 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."
6The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The 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!"
10When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" 11The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb Speese**

**Hymn of the Day** **“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335**



**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.*

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. We pray especially for Messiah Lutheran Church in Bay City and Rev. Dan Stoneback. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. We pray especially for the people of the MSU community, Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & Offering song “Create in Me a Clean Heart” ELW 186**



**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue**

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.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**



**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**

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

**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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**communion**

\**continuous*

*\*People are welcome to kneel at the altar rail for a time of prayer after they receive their communion elements*

**SongS During Communion**

**“Ah, Holy Jesus” ELW 349**



**“Where Charity and Love Prevail” ELW 359**



**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 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW 338**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Thank you to all who served in worship today!**

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Acolyte: Kole Hokanson**

**Elder: Jolene Griffin**

 **Trustee: Mike Johnson**

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

**Safety Person: Ken Heise**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Easter Bags:** We are in need of volunteers to deliver Easter bags. Please see Dawn or Buffy if interested.
* **Update on Pastoral Call Process – Survey Deadline is April 2nd:** Please remember to return your survey by April 2nd. If you need a survey, there are copies on the table in the Narthex. The survey responses provide Council with valuable information that will be used to complete the Congregational Profile. Several council members will be meeting on April 4th to use the survey responses to complete the profile. Thank you!
* **Singers needed!** Looking for singers for the Good Friday Community on April 7 at 1:00 PM at Central United Methodist. There will be a rehearsal at 12:20 PM. Please see Pastor Becky if interested. She does have the hymn.
* **Community Easter Egg Hunt, April 8:** Zion is a member of the Lakewood Area Chamber of Commerce and we will be participating in this year’s Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th. Zion donated candy and helped stuff about 4,000 eggs! Zion will have a game station at the park. Kids can try their skill at tossing a ring around the Easter Bunny. Everyone wins a prize. We will be distributing information about Zion. As always, we can use helpers so if you are able to assist, please let Martha know. Please bring your kids and grandkids to enjoy this community event. About 400 kids and their parents are expected.
* **Easter Morning Breakfast :** Please join us on Easter morning at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast before worship. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Diane or Jolene.
* **Easter Egg Hunt** will be following service on Easter morning, Sunday, April 9. We're asking the congregation to consider donating candy and coins for the eggs by March 26. Non-chocolate candy or gum are also requested. Please provide small items that can fit into the eggs. Please bring your kids, grandkids or any other kiddos to our Easter Egg Hunt!
* **Community Dinner, April 13th:** Zion’s next turn to host the community dinner held at Central UMC in Lake Odessa is April 13th. We need volunteers to set-up, serve, clean-up and provide fellowship to those attending the dinner. In addition, the hosting church provides dessert, so we are in need of desserts to serve. If you can help by volunteering or making a dessert, please let Martha know.**Women’s Spring Conference** meeting is Saturday April 22, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM; with registration & snacks from 9:30 to 10:00. It will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008.The cost is $10.00. There will also be fellowship opportunities, Bible study, and a worship service. Please Contact Linda Ward 269-344-8684 by  April 15, 2023 to reserve your place. You may pay at the door upon arrival.
* **CROP Walk** is April 30 at Central United Methodist at 11 AM. Please visit crophungerwalk.org for more details or talk to Claude Smith.
* **Plan for Locking Church Doors During Worship:** Ensuring the safety and well-being of those worshiping at Zion is of the highest priority. The ballot results were 43 ballots returned with 22 preferring the doors be locked and 21 preferring the doors not be locked. The safety committee has drafted a procedure to implement locking the church doors during worship services beginning May 7. There will be an article and copy of the policy in the April Newsletter. If you have questions or concerns, please talk with any member of the safety committee or council.
* **Silent Auction:** The ZLCW is looking for items for our Silent Auction in June.  We need the items by May 14th. Please see Dawn Brodbeck, so she came include the items in the advertising.
* **Church Repair or Maintenance Needs:** There is a new form you can use to alert the Trustees to the need for a repair or maintenance at the church. Copies of the new form are on the table in the Narthex. If you note something that needs attention, please complete the form and either put it in the Trustee’s mailbox or hand it to done of the Trustees. Using the form will help us keep track of requests. Thank you.
* **Summer Worship To Remain at 10:30 am:** Council voted to leave worship at 10:30 am this summer in consideration of our Pastor retiring and relying on supply Pastors. Many of our supply Pastors travel some distance to come to Zion. It was felt moving the worship time to 9:30 might be a hardship on our supply Pastors or make it more difficult for us to find Pastors willing to come to lead worship at Zion.
* **Vacation Bible School – June 27th:** We are excited to be able to hold VBS again this year using the one-day format. We need lots of volunteers to make VBS work. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you can help during VBS, with setting up or cleaning up, please let us know. If you have questions, please talk with Karen, Martha, or Ruth.