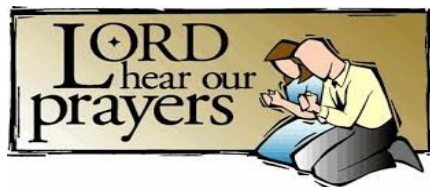




BIRTHDAY WISHES

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Heidi Grothe | 04/06 |
| Donald Frebertshauser | 04/09 |
| Daniel Long | 04/09 |
| Sharon Minor | 04/11 |



Members of St. John's: George Amoss, Jacob Armacost, John Barnes, Dave Basler, Levi Blubaugh, Lily Blubaugh, Family and Friends of John & Betty Boone, Charles Brehm, Pat Brehm, Beverly Dutterer, Janet Gross, Donald Heath, Jeanne Joiner, Betty Knisley, Yvonne Mathias, Sue Mencer, Phyllis Menchey, Joseph Olenik, Family and Friends of Stanley Parks, Doris Rebert, Muriel Sabo, Tracey Sanford, Anna Rae Siegman, Roy Vest, The West Family, Lorrie Wilson, Jean Yeakel, Gloria Yingling, Pastor Michael Dubsky, Chaplain Jimmie Schwartz and the Class of 2020.



St. John's Lutheran Church

827 Leister's Church Road, Westminster, MD 21157

Phone 410-848-6402

Email office@stjohnswestminster.org

Website: <http://www.stjohnswestminster.org/>

The Rev. Kristin Dubsky, Pastor



ST. JOHN'S
Lutheran Church



*Palm
Sunday*



Palm Sunday
April 5, 2020



HOLY WEEK

This Sunday begins the most important week in the church year, Holy Week. How strange and empty to not join together to walk through these days together, but we know it is the best way we can care for our neighbors at this time. Below I will share what we are offering to celebrate this week and what the Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA is doing.

St. John's Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday

10:30am Facebook Live- St. John's Lutheran Church Westminster, MD (posted after to YouTube St John's Lutheran Church Westminster, MD) and our website www.stjohnswestminster.org Enclosed you will find the order of worship for that day. Before worship begins find a green leaf or color in your own palm to wave as we begin worship together. Get ready to parade into worship with me that morning.

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is one of my favorite services of the whole year and we will not be together to experience it. Instead, Pastor Nancy Kraft from Ascension Lutheran Church has written a beautiful service you can do yourself with whoever is "at home" with you. We are enclosing it here. Gather around a meal and read through the service together. If you are alone, call or Facetime a friend to join with you.

Dear People of St. John's -

Due to the latest updates - All in person worship and all activities at church are cancelled through April 30 (at the earliest). If you have something scheduled at the church, consider it cancelled. It is a difficult time for all of us in so many different ways. Please continue to pray for all people, check in on your neighbors and know that God is with us in these uncertain days.

EASTER BIBLE READING PLAN

- | | |
|--|---|
| <u>1. JESUS' TRIUMPHANT ENTRY</u> LUKE 19: 28-38 | <u>9. JESUS ARRESTED</u> MATTHEW 26: 47-56 |
| <u>2. JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH</u> JOHN 12: 20-36 | <u>10. PETER DISOWNS JESUS</u> LUKE 22: 54-62 |
| <u>3. THE PLOT AGAINST JESUS</u> MATTHEW 26: 1-5 | <u>11. JESUS BEFORE PILATE</u> MATTHEW 27: 11-26 |
| <u>4. JUDAS AGREES TO BETRAY JESUS</u> LUKE 22: 1-6 | <u>12. SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS</u> MATTHEW 27: 27-31 |
| <u>5. THE LAST SUPPER</u> LUKE 22:7-20 | <u>13. THE CRUCIFIXION</u> LUKE 23: 26-43 |
| <u>6. JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLE'S FEET</u> JOHN 13: 2-17 | <u>14. JESUS' DEATH</u> LUKE 23: 44-49 |
| <u>7. JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIAL</u> MATTHEW 26: 31-35 | <u>15. BURIAL OF JESUS</u> MATTHEW 27:57-66 |
| <u>8. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE</u> MATTHEW 26:36-45 | <u>16. THE RESURRECTION</u> MATTHEW 28: 11-10 |
| <u>17. ROAD TO EMMAUS</u> LUKE 24: 13-35 | <u>18. JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES</u> LUKE 24: 36-45 |
| | <u>19. THE ASCENSION</u> LUKE 24: 50-53 |



A Member's Note

Good morning everyone!

I hope all of you are doing well!

We are in a very strange and challenging time. I doubt that any of us would have predicted such a crisis in our lifetime, but it is here. Continue to pray for God's guidance, comfort and assurance. Pray for those affected by the virus--the sick, the hospital staff members, the first responders, those ministering to the many that need spiritual support at this time, family members and friends. Pray for those in positions of authority as they make critical decisions. Pray for those whose livelihoods have been taken away. Pray for the entire family of God, all 7 billion plus.

Because of the crisis and the rules placed into effect, there will be no Men and Sons of the Congregation Banquet on April 22. There will be no Westminster District Men's Dinner on April 27. All other activities and gatherings will be evaluated and determined as time progresses. If we are able to meet in May, I will let you know, but I have my doubts. None of us can accurately predict the future so we continue to move forward as the days and minutes allow us to do so.

Continue to support the mission of the St. John's Congregation with your prayers, telephone calls to one another, Facebook listings and the like. Remember that your financial support is also important during this time. And as your confinement to home continues, maybe you will be able to develop some new talents, or to refine a talent that has not had your priority due to time constraints.

For now, stay home, stay safe and pray often.

God's peace be with all of you!
Dennis



Good Friday

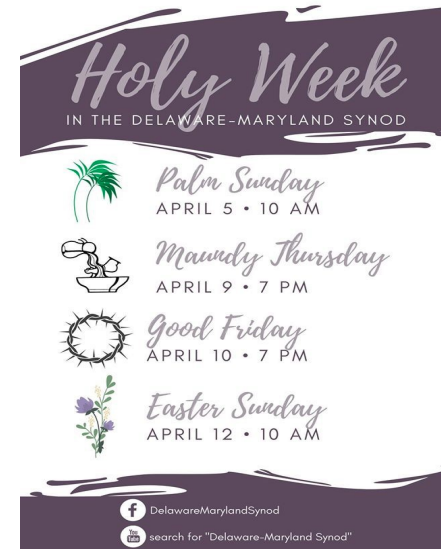
On Good Friday, a pre-recorded video worship will be posted to Facebook, YouTube and our website that day. Time to be determined. Gather around with your housemates and hear "The Seven Last Words of Christ" from the cross, brought to you by our members.

Easter Sunday

Sunrise - Depending on the weather - a very brief service may be shared at Sunrise on Easter.

10:30am Facebook Live- St. John's Lutheran Church Westminster, MD (posted after to YouTube St John's Lutheran Church Westminster, MD) and our website www.stjohnswestminster.org

Delaware Maryland Synod Holy Week Worship



Offering: Thank you to everyone who continues to send in their offerings. They are being deposited weekly. Even in this challenging time we have bills to pay and we invite you to consider mailing in your offerings: St. John's Lutheran Church, 827 Leister's Church Road, Westminster, MD 21157 or online giving (you can find that information on our website). We also encourage you to use the envelopes for our special Lent offerings to support the organizations that our listed in our March newsletter.

Pastoral Care: Please feel free to email, call or text Pastor with any pastoral care needs or if you just want to say hello.

May you feel God's presence in this most Holy Week.

Pastor Kristin Dubsy



Please read below for the Worship Service for Sunday

Before worship: Find something green and leafy or color and cut out your own palm branch to wave in procession around your house.

Worship: St. John's Lutheran Church Online or In Home
Palm Sunday Online Worship
Sunday, April 5, 2020

If you do not have access to the internet we encourage you to gather around and read through this service with your housemates.

10:30 am - Facebook Live: St. John's Lutheran
Church Westminster, MD

After worship, this service will be posted to our St John's Lutheran Church Westminster, MD YouTube channel.

WELCOME

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

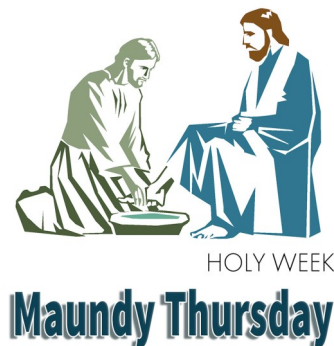
All: Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



BULLETIN BOARD

We are discouraging visits during this time. If you feel a need to visit church, please call us to make sure we are here to let you in. We need to limit the number of people so we can limit everyone's exposure to one another.

All Worship and Activities at the church are cancelled through Saturday, April 30.

Gloria thanks everyone for pitching in and getting these fleece blankets completed. Please return them to Fellowship Hall when you are finished.



The Soup Kitchen Committee would like to say THANKS to all who have previously answered the call for plastic containers, but...but. STOP! We appreciate all that you have brought in, but we are at our limit. Thanks again to all!

Because our Easter service has been cancelled, so is our drive to purchase Easter Flowers and Chicks. If you sent an order in, your payment will be returned. If you have any questions, please call the office.

If you have any needs during this time, please contact Pastor Kristin (410.299.4853) or pastorkristindubsky@gmail.com.

If you know of someone needing prayers, a joy, a concern, a telephone call or just want to share a news item, please call or email Deb. We will continue to send these notices out until the crisis is over and we can meet again.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

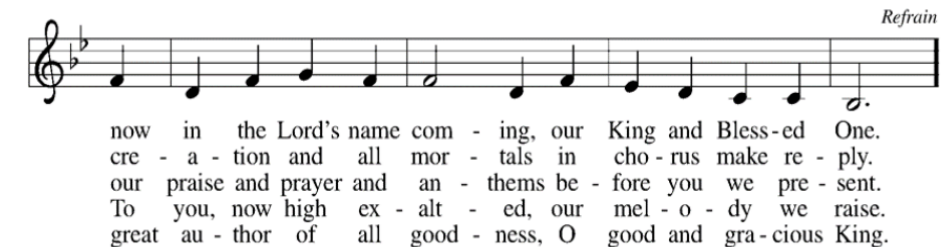
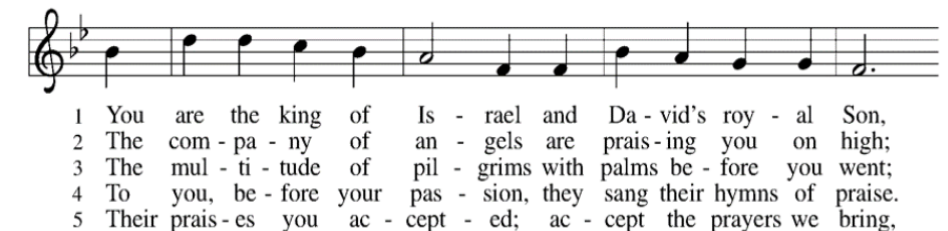
Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

All: Amen.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor



Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray, 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.

All: Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

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."

Sermon: Pastor Kristin Dubsy

APRIL 5, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you show others that you care for them?
- How have others shown care for you?
- Jesus died on a cross. How is this act of God a sign of love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 26:14–27:66.

Many theories have been put forward in the history of the church to state why Jesus had to die to be our Savior. However, one point is clear in the Bible: Jesus' death shows the depth of God's love, a love that is willing to experience a form of slavery, humiliation, and excruciating death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). Crosses have become forms of jewelry and part of other art forms that point to Jesus' death. However, neither the jewelry nor other art come close to the pain and humiliation that God in Christ endured to indicate the character of who God is for us. Jesus is not only Emmanuel, God with us, in humiliation and death. Jesus also joins our human existence by making our deepest prayer his prayer: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). God in Christ Jesus joins our life experience and from the cross stretches out his arms to say, "I love you this much." When you see someone wearing a cross, what does it mean to you?

Pray: Loving God, you stop at nothing to show us your divine character and the depths of your love. Help us to know and to trust the power of your love for us through Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). To have a mind like Jesus means to be humble and not selfish but selfless. Such humility opens our lives to care for others. In what ways are you a servant to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

If you received palms during worship, take them home. As we begin Holy Week, say the ACTS prayer of giving praise to God (Adoration), asking God's forgiveness (Confession), giving thanks to God (Thanksgiving), and asking God's help for those in need (Supplication) as you light all six purple candles on the Lenten Candle Cross. After lighting the candles, hold a palm and wave it in your hand as you say, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9b)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an

APRIL 5, 2020
PALM/PASSION
SUNDAY



God shows divine love through humiliation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday | Matthew 21:1-11 | Jesus enters Jerusalem |
| Monday | Matthew 26:14–27:66 | Jesus' trial and crucifixion |
| Tuesday | Isaiah 50:4-9a | The servant's humiliation |
| Wednesday | Philippians 2:5-11 | Christ shows us true humility |
| Thursday | John 13:1-35 | Jesus washes disciples' feet |
| Friday | John 18:1–19:42 | Jesus suffers and dies |
| Saturday | Psalms 31:9-16 | Prayer for protection |
| Sunday | Matthew 28:1-10 | Christ's resurrection |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[B]ut [Jesus Christ] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. **Philippians 2:7-8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, free us to trust that the humiliation Jesus experienced from the cross is the path to hope for the world and the source of true power, true faith, and true love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of each day and for this food. May we enjoy the day with courage, faith, and love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the face of God shine on you and save you through Christ's steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)



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Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me,
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon-tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

Prayers of Intercession

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of mercy, awaken your church to new proclamations of your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of your redemption. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, quiet the earth where it trembles and shakes. Protect vulnerable ecosystems, threatened habitats, and endangered species. Prosper the work of scientists, engineers, and researchers who find ways to restore creation to health and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, drive away fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who seek liberation for the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those who are in prison and those who face execution. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, send your saving help to all who suffer abuse, insult, discrimination, or contempt. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying. Bring peace to those suffering COVID-19. Tend to all who cry out for relief especially those on our prayer list and all who we name out loud or in our hearts... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, be with all doctors, nurses, nursing home workers, first responders, custodial staff, grocery store employees and all who are interacting with people every day. Keep them and their families safe. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, we pray for all who will prepare, lead and experience worship in new ways this Holy Week. In all things, show us the ways that you call us to die to self, to live for you, and to give of ourselves for the sake of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Other prayer requests may be included here.

God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth, let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

All: 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.

Benediction:

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

All: Amen.

Dismissal:

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Peace be with you!

