



# Sunday of the Palms and Christ's Passion

## March 24, 2024

New Hope Lutheran Church 3125 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Great Falls, MT  
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### GATHERING

Gathering Music: *Festival*

Emma Louise Ashford

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *March*

Ira B. Wilson

*(the congregation stands)*

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

C: Hosanna in the highest!

**P: Processional Gospel** according to Mark 11:1-11 **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus and his disciples reached Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives. When they were getting close to Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of them on ahead. He told them, "Go into the next village. As soon as you enter it, you will find a young donkey that has never been ridden. Untie the donkey and bring it here. If anyone asks why you are doing this, say, 'The Lord needs it and will soon bring it back.' "*

*The disciples left and found the donkey tied near a door that faced the street. While they were untying it, some of the people standing there asked, "Why are you untying the donkey?" They told them what Jesus had said, and the people let them take it.*

*The disciples led the donkey to Jesus. They put some of their clothes on its back, and Jesus got on. Many people spread clothes on the road, while others spread branches they had cut from the fields.*

*In front of Jesus and behind him, people went along shouting,  
“Hooray! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
God bless the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Hooray for God in heaven  
above!”*

*After Jesus had gone to Jerusalem, he went into the temple and looked around at  
everything. But since it was already late in the day, he went back to Bethany with  
the twelve disciples.*

L: The gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn: Surely God Is My Salvation

ACS #926

1. Sure-ly God is my salvation, I... will trust and shall not fear.  
God... the Lord is strong and mighty, my sal-va-tion true.

Refrain: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O daughter Zi-on!  
Great... in your midst... is the Lord, the Holy One!  
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O daughter Zi-on!  
Great... in your midst... is the Lord, the Holy One!

2. Thus... with... joy you shall draw water from... sal-va-tion's wells and springs.  
Sing... your... thanks to God Almighty for these won-drous deeds. (refrain)

3. Tell... the nations of God's glory, make... this known in all the earth.  
Praise... the Lord, the God of Israel, call up-on... God's name. (refrain)

L: The grace of Jesus Christ our Savion, the reconciling love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

L: We pray together... **C: O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the  
passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around  
the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever. Amen.** *(the congregation is seated)*

## WORD

L: The Gospel for the Sunday of Palms and Christ's Passion is according to Mark,  
chapters 14 & 15 (CEV) **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Jesus is Anointed at Bethany/Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus**

**Melanie**

*It was now two days before Passover and the Festival of Thin Bread. The chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses were planning how they could sneak around and have Jesus arrested and put to death. They were saying, "We must not do it during the festival, because the people will riot."*

*Jesus was eating in Bethany at the home of Simon, who once had leprosy, when a woman came in with a very expensive bottle of sweet-smelling perfume. After breaking it open, she poured the perfume on Jesus' head. This made some of the guests angry, and they complained, "Why such a waste? We could have sold this perfume for more than 300 silver coins and given the money to the poor!" So they started saying cruel things to the woman.*

*But Jesus said:*

*Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. You will always have the poor with you. And whenever you want to, you can give to them. But you won't always have me here with you. She has done all she could by pouring perfume on my body to prepare it for burial. You may be sure that wherever the good news is told all over the world, people will remember what she has done. And they will tell others.*

*Judas Iscariot was one of the twelve disciples. He went to the chief priests and offered to help them arrest Jesus. They were glad to hear this, and they promised to pay him. So Judas started looking for a good chance to betray Jesus.*

Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW #631 (v.1)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

## **The Passover with the Disciples**

**Pastor Tammy**

Children's Message (Spark Story Bible p. 462-467)

*"...When the meal was over, Jesus and his friends went to a place called the Mount of Olives. Jesus said sadly, "Soon all of you will leave me." Peter felt bad. "Even if all the others leave you, I won't!" he said. Jesus looked at his dear friend and said*

quietly, *“Before the sun rises, you will pretend you don’t know me three times.”* Peter said, *“Jesus, I love you too much to ever do that to you!”* And all of the other disciples said the same thing.”

Hymn: Eat this Bread

ELW #472

1. “Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”  
*(repeat several times meditatively)*

### **Jesus Prays in Gethsemane/Jesus is Arrested**

**Melanie**

*Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he told them, “Sit here while I pray.” Jesus took along Peter, James, and John. He was sad and troubled and told them, “I am so sad that I feel as if I am dying. Stay here and keep awake with me.”*

*Jesus walked on a little way. Then he knelt down on the ground and prayed, “Father, if it is possible, don't let this happen to me! Father, you can do anything. Don't make me suffer by drinking from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want.”*

*When Jesus came back and found the disciples sleeping, he said to Simon Peter, “Are you asleep? Can't you stay awake for just one hour? Stay awake and pray that you won't be tested. You want to do what is right, but you are weak.”*

*Jesus went back and prayed the same prayer. But when he returned to the disciples, he found them sleeping again. They simply could not keep their eyes open, and they did not know what to say.*

*When Jesus returned to the disciples the third time, he said, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough of this! The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinners. Get up! Let's go. The one who will betray me is already here.”*

*Jesus was still speaking, when Judas the betrayer came up. He was one of the twelve disciples, and a mob of men armed with swords and clubs were with him. They had been sent by the chief priests, the nation's leaders, and the teachers of the Law of Moses. Judas had told them ahead of time, “Arrest the man I greet with a kiss. Tie him up tight and lead him away.”*

*Judas walked right up to Jesus and said, "Teacher!" Then Judas kissed him, and the men grabbed Jesus and arrested him. Someone standing there pulled out a sword. He struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.*

*Jesus said to the mob, "Why do you come with swords and clubs to arrest me like a criminal? Day after day I was with you and taught in the temple, and you didn't arrest me. But what the Scriptures say must come true."*

*All of Jesus' disciples ran off and left him. One of them was a young man who was wearing only a linen cloth. And when the men grabbed him, he left the cloth behind and ran away naked.*

Hymn: Go to Dark Gethsemane

ELW #347 (v. 1 & 2)

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, pain, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

**Jesus Before the Council/Peter Denies Jesus/Jesus Before Pilate** **Julie**

*Jesus was led off to the high priest. Then the chief priests, the nation's leaders, and the teachers of the Law of Moses all met together. Peter had followed at a distance, and when he reached the courtyard of the high priest's house, he sat down with the guards to warm himself beside a fire.*

*The chief priests and the whole council tried to find someone to accuse Jesus of a crime, so they could put him to death. But they could not find anyone to accuse him. Many people did tell lies against Jesus, but they did not agree on what they said. Finally, some men stood up and lied about him. They said, "We heard him say he would tear down this temple that we built. He also claimed that in three days he would build another one without any help." But even then they did not agree on what they said.*

*The high priest stood up in the council and asked Jesus, "Why don't you say something in your own defense? Don't you hear the charges they are making against you?" But Jesus kept quiet and did not say a word. The high priest asked him another question, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the glorious God?" "Yes, I am!" Jesus answered. "Soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of God All-Powerful, and coming with the clouds of heaven."*

*At once the high priest ripped his robe apart and shouted, "Why do we need more witnesses? You heard him claim to be God! What is your decision?" They all agreed he should be put to death. Some of the people started spitting on Jesus. They blindfolded him, hit him with their fists, and said, "Tell us who hit you!" Then the guards took charge of Jesus and beat him.*

*While Peter was still in the courtyard, a servant girl of the high priest came up and saw Peter warming himself by the fire. She stared at him and said, "You were with Jesus from Nazareth!" Peter replied, "That isn't true! I don't know what you're talking about. I don't have any idea what you mean." He went out to the gate, and a rooster crowed.*

*The servant girl saw Peter again and said to the people standing there, "This man is one of them!" "No, I'm not!" Peter replied. A little while later some of the people said to Peter, "You certainly are one of them. You're a Galilean!" This time Peter began to curse and swear, "I don't even know the man you're talking about!" At once the rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had told him, "Before a rooster crows twice, you will say three times that you don't know me." So Peter started crying.*

*Early the next morning the chief priests, the nation's leaders, and the teachers of the Law of Moses met together with the whole Jewish council. They tied up Jesus and led him off to Pilate. He asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Those are your words," Jesus answered. The chief priests brought many charges against Jesus. Then Pilate questioned him again, "Don't you have anything to say? Don't you hear what crimes they say you have done?" But Jesus did not answer, and Pilate was amazed.*

1. Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended  
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.
2. Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

### **Pilate Hands Jesus over to be Crucified/Soldiers Mock Jesus**

**Rob**

*During Passover, Pilate always freed one prisoner chosen by the people. And at that time there was a prisoner named Barabbas. He and some others had been arrested for murder during a riot. The crowd now came and asked Pilate to set a prisoner free, just as he usually did. Pilate asked them, "Do you want me to free the king of the Jews?" Pilate knew that the chief priests had brought Jesus to him because they were jealous. But the chief priests told the crowd to ask Pilate to free Barabbas.*

*Then Pilate asked the crowd, "What do you want me to do with this man you say is the king of the Jews?" They yelled, "Nail him to a cross!" Pilate asked, "But what crime has he done?" "Nail him to a cross!" they yelled even louder. Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free. Then he ordered his soldiers to beat Jesus with a whip and nail him to a cross.*

*The soldiers led Jesus inside the courtyard of the fortress and called together the rest of the troops. They put a purple robe on him, and on his head they placed a crown they had made out of thorn branches. They made fun of Jesus and shouted, "Hey, you king of the Jews!" Then they beat him on the head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt down and pretended to worship him.*

*When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus, they took off the purple robe. They put his own clothes back on him and led him off to be nailed to a cross. Simon from Cyrene happened to be coming in from a farm, and they forced him to carry Jesus' cross. Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.*

Hymn: Lamb of God

ELW #336 (v. 1 & 2)

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side  
to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.

Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2. Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died.

The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. (refrain)

### **Jesus is Crucified/Jesus Dies and is Buried**

**Rob**

*The soldiers took Jesus to Golgotha, which means "Place of a Skull." There they gave him some wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain, but he refused to drink it. They nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes. It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed him to the cross. On it was a sign that told why he was nailed there. It read, "This is the King of the Jews." The soldiers also nailed two criminals on crosses, one to the right of Jesus and the other to his left.*

*People who passed by said terrible things about Jesus. They shook their heads and shouted, "Ha! So you're the one who claimed you could tear down the temple and build it again in three days. Save yourself and come down from the cross!"*

*The chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses also made fun of Jesus. They said to each other, "He saved others, but he can't save himself. If he is the Messiah, the king of Israel, let him come down from the cross! Then we will see and believe." The two criminals also said cruel things to Jesus.*

*About noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until around three o'clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"*

*Some of the people standing there heard Jesus and said, "He is calling for Elijah." One of them ran and grabbed a sponge. After he had soaked it in wine, he put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus. He said, "Let's wait and see if Elijah will come and take him down!" Jesus shouted and then died.*

*At once the curtain in the temple tore in two from top to bottom.*



*A Roman army officer was standing in front of Jesus. When the officer saw how Jesus died, he said, "This man really was the Son of God!"*

*Some women were looking on from a distance. They and many others had come with Jesus to Jerusalem. But even before this they had been his followers and had helped him while he was in Galilee. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joseph were two of these women. Salome was also one of them.*

*It was now the evening before the Sabbath, and the Jewish people were getting ready for that sacred day. A man named Joseph from Arimathea was brave enough to ask Pilate for the body of Jesus. Joseph was a highly respected member of the Jewish council, and he was also waiting for God's kingdom to come. Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead, and he called in the army officer to find out if Jesus had been dead very long. After the officer told him, Pilate let Joseph have Jesus' body.*

*Joseph bought a linen cloth and took the body down from the cross. He had it wrapped in the cloth, and he put it in a tomb that had been cut into solid rock. Then he rolled a big stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were watching and saw where the body was placed.*

**L:** The gospel of our Lord.    **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn: Beneath the Cross of Jesus *(please rise in body/spirit)*                      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 the 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.

## Prayers of the People

### Sharing the Peace of Christ

L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

## MEAL

**Offering:** *(At this time we bring our gifts and offerings to God in gratitude and joy. In response to God's love, we care for others in the name of Jesus. We do this, in part, by joining with other Christians in our community to bear witness to God's radical love and mercy. We appreciate your gifts of time, money, energy, and prayers for this work! If you are our guest today – either in person or online – we invite you to join us in caring for God's people and God's world!)*

Offertory: Sonata in D Major – 3<sup>rd</sup> Movement/Largo

B. Marcello

Offering Response: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW #807 (v. 3 only)

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Offertory Prayer: **C: 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.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

## Invitation to Communion

All who thirst, all who hunger: come and be filled with the goodness of God.

## Distribution of Communion

L: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, comfort you, and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us all pray... **C: O God, in this holy meal you have embraced us and gathered us into your arms of compassion and love. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

L: The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of (+) Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

ELW #337

1. Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?
2. Was it for sins that I had done he groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!
3. Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut its glories in  
when God, the mighty maker, died for his own creatures' sin.
4. Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears,  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my eyes to tears.
5. But tears of grief cannot repay the debt of love I owe;  
here, Lord, I give myself away: 'tis all that I can do.

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: Contemplation

Cyrus Stevens Mallard