

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

You have a place here!

*"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

PALM SUNDAY

9:00 am Sunday, April 13, 2025

Pastor Dave Johnson

TODAY'S REFLECTION



Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

"All Glory Laud And Honor" page 9

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 19:28-40

Glory to you, O Lord.

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you,

"Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it." ' So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!'

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▲ **Blessing of the Palms**

The members of the congregation raise their branches.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We praise and thank you, O God,
for the great acts of love by which
you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph,
and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered
their garments and branches of palm in his path.

We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them,
and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him
with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence for Reflection

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.
We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.
We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In † Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

▲ *Prayer of the Day*

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. Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ *God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)*

The First Reading is from Isaiah 50:4-9

The 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. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward. I 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. The
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; he who vindicates me is
near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my
adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will
declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them
up.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

▼ *God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)*

Psalms 31:9-16

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

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

I 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.

I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;

I have become like a broken vessel.

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

But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God."

My times are in your hand;

deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

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

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

The Second Reading is from Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but 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. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and 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.**

▼ **Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

"Were You There" page 10

▲ **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

▲ **Prayers of the Church**

For the Church, the world, and our poor sinful selves, let us pray to our Lord, who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

A brief silence

Lord Jesus, by your Cross and precious Blood, save and redeem your Church. Through its ministry of Word, Sacrament, fellowship, and service, draw all people to yourself. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, by your Cross and precious Blood, save and redeem those who are persecuted because they proclaim the Gospel to those who do not know you. By their faithful witness, draw all people to yourself. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, by your Cross and precious Blood, save and redeem this congregation. Through our faith toward you, and fervent love for one another, draw all people to yourself. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, by your Cross and precious Blood, save and redeem all children, especially those who are poor, sick, abused, or abandoned. Through their innocent praise of your love draw all people to yourself. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, by your Cross and precious Blood, save and redeem the people in every land and nation. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, establish your peace in every place; and draw all people to yourself. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, by your Cross and precious Blood, save and redeem all whose work is difficult and dangerous, including those in the military and all first responders. By their labors, establish places of safety and calm; and there draw all people to yourself. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, by your Cross and precious Blood, save and redeem all who are afflicted by sin, suffering, and sorrow, *especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Use the witness of their faithful waiting, and their blessed healing, to draw all people to yourself. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, by your Cross and precious Blood, you have saved and redeemed all who have died trusting your promises. Now keep us steadfast in faith, patient in suffering, generous in service, and loving in fellowship. Through your Cross and innocent suffering for the sake of the world, draw all people to yourself, and bestow upon all the redeemed the fullness of your forgiveness, blessing, and eternal life. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us, gracious Father, for the sake of your well-beloved Son, who intercedes for us before your throne of mercy. **Amen.**

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

Mission Designation Fortune Lake

▼ **Offering Prayer**

Gracious Provider,
 you set your immense treasures among us,
 opening your heart to the world.
 As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
 deepen our commitment to sharing those
 treasures with others,
 through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
 Amen.

▼ **The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution**

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, 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.

▼ **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

▼ **Invitation and Distribution of Communion**

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

▼ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in His grace until He comes again. In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

▼ **Post Communion Prayer**

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ **Closing Hymn**

"In Christ Alone" page 11

▼ **Announcements**

Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time.

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re-deem-er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Were You There



- 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual

In Christ Alone

Words and Music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, — my song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right-cous -
world by dark - ness slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ — in me; From life's first cry to fi - nal



Ground, firm through the fier - est drought — and storm. What heights of
-ness, scorned by the ones He came — to save. Till on that
Day, up from the grave He rose — a - gain! And as He
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of



love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His



cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in All, here in the
-fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the
me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the
hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the



love of Christ — I stand.
death of Christ — I live.
pre - cious blood — of Christ.
pow'r of Christ — I'll stand!

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

are available following these easy steps from our secure Website or Facebook Page

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[facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurchElca](https://www.facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurchElca): Click the "Shop Now" button on the upper right corner to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
Tuesday	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
Wednesday	10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
Thursday	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 10:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room

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