

W elcome to W orship

St. Luke's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



*Palm Sunday*

*March 24, 2024*



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*

Pastor:

NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*

Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*

Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>

eMail: [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)

Church Phone: 419-257-3253

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

## **Assisting in Worship**

Organist: *Janet Goldner*

Worship Leader: *Pastor Elizabeth Hadler*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Tiffany Mika*

Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



## **To the Glory of God**

March Candles: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

March Bulletins: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

March Newsletter: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

**North Baltimore Food Pantry March** requested donations include: hand soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste. Without our help, some families in our community will go without. Please help.

**Choir** rehearsals are Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. You may join us anytime. Everyone age 16 and older is invited to join us. Come and lift your voice in praise to God.

# Order of Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24, 2024

*God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.*

*\*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

*Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to listen."*

### \*PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

MARK 11:1-11

Leader: When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and 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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them,

**ALL: "What are you doing, untying the colt?"**

Leader: They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

**ALL: “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

Leader: Then 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.

**\*GATHERING HYMN #344**

ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR

**\*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

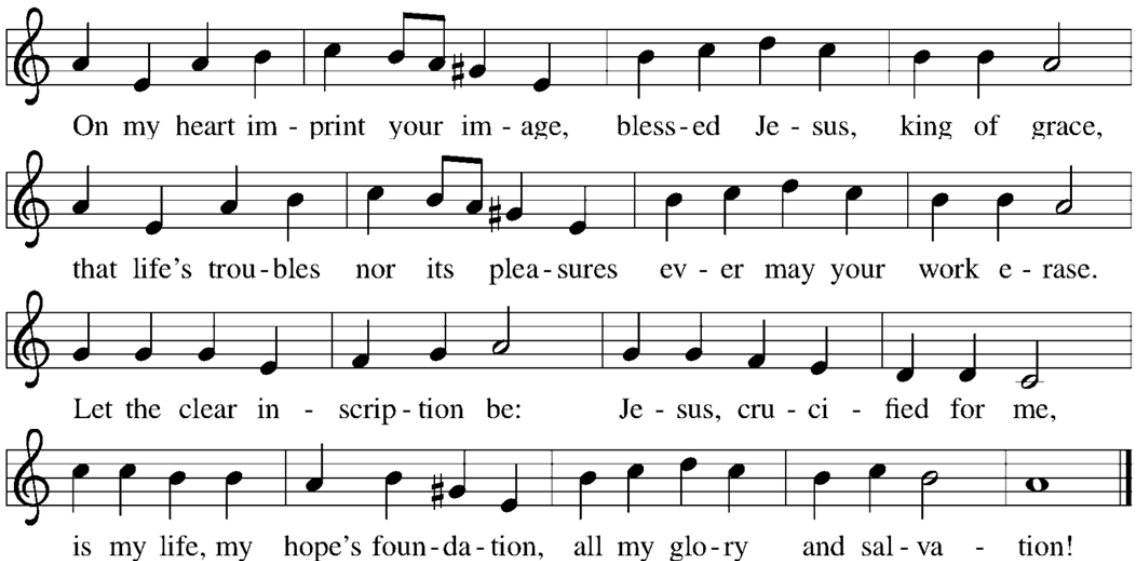
*Please take a moment for personal reflection.*

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,

**ALL: we praise you not only with outward signs of palm branches and “Hosannas,” but with lives turned towards you. When our words and actions betray you, when we fail to love you, when we fail to love others, when we fail to love ourselves, forgive us and imprint your image on our hearts.**

**\* CONFESSION CANTICLE**

ELW HYMN 811



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,  
that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.  
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Leader: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**ALL: Hosanna to the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Amen**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray:

**ALL: 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. In the name of the one who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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# GOD SPEAKS TO US

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## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 50:4-9A

Reader: 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. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

BRING PALM BRANCHES

CINDY BERRY

## PSALM READING

*(responsively)*

Psalm 31:9-16

Reader: Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

**ALL: For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

Reader: am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

**ALL: Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

Reader: For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

**ALL: But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, "You are my God.**

Reader: My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

**ALL: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Reader: 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,<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 3



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## \*GOSPEL READING

MARK 15:1-47

*The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.*

Leader: Listen now to the holy gospel according to Mark. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: A soon as it was morning .... <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

## THE MESSAGE

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY #264

PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

## **\*PALM SUNDAY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: As the pilgrim people of God, we confess our faith together.

**ALL: We believe in our Creator, faithful to all that is seen and unseen.  
We hope in God, present in our journey by day and by night.  
We love the Father, who both judges and shows mercy.**

**We believe in Jesus who rode in triumph into Jerusalem.  
We hope in the Messiah, crucified, died, and buried.  
We love the living Christ, raised from the grave, alive forever.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of faith and life.  
We hope in the Breath of Life who sustains and makes us holy.  
We love the Church, God's people united on the way to the promised goal.**

**We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and the people of a world in need.

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for We pray for Lorraine, Sue, Dave, Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Tony, Ron, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Gus, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Doug, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Holly, Tessa, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, Dan, and Cooper.

## **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace that passes all understanding be with you.

**ALL: and also with you.**

*Please share God's peace."*



## **INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS**

Leader: Lord Jesus, Our Savior and Redeemer, you have set the ultimate example of sacrificial love by giving life for our salvation. We ask for grace to emulate your sacrificial love in our own lives. Grant us the capacity to give as a heartfelt act of worship and devotion to you.

## **OFFERTORY**

### **\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL: Lord God, we remember that your Son, Jesus our Lord, emptied himself and gave his life for us. Grant us courage to empty ourselves, that we may serve humbly. Keep us faithful. Bless us and our gifts to your glory. Amen.**

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# **GOD NOURISHES US**

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### **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you

**ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them unto the Lord.**

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

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

Leader: It is truly good, right.....evermore praising you and singing:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

MELODY TUNE; ELW HYMN 666



Blest be the One who bears God's blest name un - to us. Blest  
be the ho - ly name of our Lord. Let Je - sus' name be blest,  
by all the world con - fessed. Our high - est and our best prais - es  
ring, an - thems sing: "Ho - san - na, Christ our Lord, God and King!"

## \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, given to you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink of it all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do in remembrance of me." **ALL: Amen**

Leader: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith;

**ALL: Christ died, emptying his life for us.**

**Christ rose, defeating sin and death.**

**Christ will come, to fulfill what God has promised.**

Leader: As beloved children of God we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

## \*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US

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

## \*LAMB OF GOD

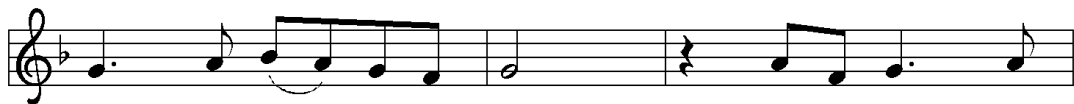
SETTING 2 PG. 135



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Leader: This is the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Come to the table and taste the mercy of God.

## DISTRIBUTION

## \*TABLE BLESSING

Leader: Through the body, blood, and spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. This is God's promise to us. May his love and mercy strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **ALL: Amen**

## \*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT

(Verse 1)

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join me prayer,

**ALL: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

## PSALM 22

*Listen as the candles are extinguished and the altar is stripped  
in reverence to our Lord's death.*

*Then please leave the sanctuary in silence.*



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"On My Heart Imprint Your Image" TEXT: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Stromme, 1856-1921, alt. Music: Johann B. Konig, 1691-1758

"Prepare the Royal Highway" TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: Swedish fold tune. 17<sup>th</sup> cent. Text ©1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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### Maundy Thursday, March 28

Combined churches @ St. Luke's @ 7 p.m.  
SAM Bob Fett and members from both churches  
will participate in an interactive dialogue of the Last Supper

### Good Friday, March 29

No services @ St. John's or St. Luke's  
The Church of Christ in McComb invites you to a  
Worship service @ 7 p.m.

### Easter Sunday, March 31

St. John's Worship @ 8 a.m.  
Breakfast @ 9 a.m.  
St. Luke's breakfast @ 9 a.m.  
Worship @ 10:15 a.m.  
Pastor Elizabeth Hadler will lead our worship

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The April – June issue of the *Christ in Our Home* devotional is here and can be found on the Information Table. Pick up your copy today.

St. Luke's Church Council is offering the **brown 8' tables** to members of the congregation. Please see Bryant Matthes if you are interested. Donations will be accepted.



With Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Members become eligible for Thrivent

Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Members are designated Choice Dollars that they can direct to enrolled charities. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice®."

**DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS® by March 31st.**





Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

**WE GIVE THANKS:** for those who prepared the meals, those who lead, and those who participated in the Wednesday Lenten Bible study. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Lorraine Ferguson, Sue & Dave Ebersole, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Pat Wheeler, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Tony Matthes, Ron Stewart, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**GRIEVING:** Suzanne & Bill Bucher and family following the death of Bill's mom, Dolores Bucher, on March 13.

**MILITARY:** for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

**COMPANION CHURCH:** Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

**THE WORLD:** for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.

## A Different Kind of Bloodline

Combining into one liturgy the procession and the “Crucify *Hosanna!* of the triumphal palm him!” of the passion drama—especially as filtered through Paul’s image of the “exalted” slave—invites a meditation on the mystery of Jesus’ sovereignty.

How can we Americans or Canadians grasp what it means to have or want a king when we reject the notion that bloodline conveys the right to rule? And yet, thanks to fairy tales, the Arthurian legends, and Shakespeare we have some inkling of the power, privilege, and even “divine rights” of royalty. We can use our imaginations to muster up a rousing “Ride on, King Jesus!” Then we can appreciate the incongruity: this king has to borrow a donkey, a room, and a tomb. Then, even more confounding, is that this king, “who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited” and even borrows our human likeness—including our death (Phil. 2:6).

Judas and Pilate are symbols of all humanity—including the church, to its shame—in their desire for a grand royal gesture: start a revolution, call in your army, dazzle us with eloquent testimony. Jesus resists every such temptation and embraces the mortal human scale of his limited earthly reign.

Jesus prophesied that when he was lifted up all the world would be drawn to him; Philippians proclaims that “every knee should bend” and “every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” So, whose knee will bow at the name of Jesus? All those who, following Jesus and trusting the faithfulness of God, are drawn to attend fully to human life, need, and mortality.

In monarchy, leaders lead by virtue of divine sanction of a particular bloodline. Our fond hope is that leadership is bestowed on the basis of merit, hard work, and authentic charisma. Our cynical fear is that it is bestowed on the basis of money, influence, and cronyism. The witness of Passion Sunday is that Jesus’ credential is innocent blood shed in obedience to God for the sake of the broken.

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[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)