

Palm Sunday April 2, 2023



Welcome to Worship

Children are welcome in worship at FLW!

The congregational speaking parts are printed in bold.

<u>Prelude</u>

Ann Marie Skoglund-Anderson

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

By your holy cross

You have redeemed the world.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessing of Palms

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. Amen.

Processional Hymn

All Glory Laud and Honor

ELW 344

The choir will lead us in a palm procession. Please join the procession if you are able.

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son, now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

The company of angels are praising you on high, creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. **Refrain**

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went; our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. **Refrain**

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*

Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

2

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, in the mystery of your love and salvation, you sent your Son to take on our human nature and live among us. In love Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and a few days later that love would lead him to the Cross. Help us to live our lives in response to the death and resurrection of your Son so that we may serve God and neighbor in all that we do. In your name we pray, Amen.

Anthem Benedictus Lewis Ladies Ensemble

Sung in Latin

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

Gospel Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV)

The Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"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."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The 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!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation Vicar Joanna Kathol

Hymn of the Day

My Song Is Love Unknown

ELW 343 v. 1, 2, 3, 6

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake

my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow; the world that was his own would not its Savior know. But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes we strew his way and his sweet praises sing; resounding all the day hosannas to our king. Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.

Here might I stay and sing no story so divine! Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine. This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend!

Apostle's 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.

Prayers of the People

Response: 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**.

Offering

Anthem Wondrous Cross Scott

Offering Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Offering Response



Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution



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.

Communion Distribution



Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land, a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.

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.

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.

Communion Blessing

Communion Prayer

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

Announcements

Passion Gospel according to Matthew Reader's Theatre - see page 10

Blessing

God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in grace, grow in faith, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Worship Leaders

Pastor	Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane
Intern Pastor	Vicar Joanna Kathol
Music Director	Ann Marie Skoglund-Anderson
Music	
	Ladies Ensemble
Soloist	Heather Lane
Communion Assistant	Debbie Bren
Usher	Rick Anderson
Altar Guild	Mark Overman Janis Anderson

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Readers Theatre Scene One

Narrator: Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went in secret to meet with the chief priests. He bargained with them and the deal was made to betray Jesus in exchange for 30 pieces of silver. And agreeing to this plan, Judas began from that moment to put his plan into action. Now it was the beginning of Passover, and here begins the account of Jesus's final hours.

Disciples: Jesus, Rabbi, the Passover is almost here. Where would You like us to prepare the Passover meal for you?

Jesus: Go into the city, find a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, 'My time is near, and I am going to celebrate the Passover at your house with my disciples."

Narrator: The disciples listened to Jesus and entering into the city, they found the man and made preparations at his home for the Passover meal. When evening came, Jesus sat down with the twelve and while they ate, Jesus spoke.

Jesus: I tell you this: one of you here will betray me.

A Disciple: Not me!

Another Disciple: It's not me, Master, is it?

Jesus: It's the one who shared this dish of food with me. Just as our sacred Scripture has taught, the Son of Man is on His way. But there will be nothing but misery for he who hands Him over.

Judas Iscariot: It's not me, Master, is it?

<u>Jesus:</u> I believe you've just answered your own question.

Narrator: As they were eating, Jesus took some bread. He offered a blessing over the bread, and then He broke it and gave it to His disciples.

Jesus: Take this and eat; it is My body.

Narrator: And then He took the cup of wine, He made a blessing over it, and He passed it around the table.

Jesus: Take this and drink, all of you: this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. But I tell you: I will not drink of the fruit of the vine again until I am with you once more, drinking in the kingdom of My Father.

Scene Two

<u>Narrator:</u> The meal concluded. Together, all the men sang a hymn of praise and thanksgiving, and then they took a late evening walk to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus: Scripture says, 'I shall strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will scatter.' Each of you will stumble and fall tonight on account of me. But afterward I will be raised up, and I will go before you to Galilee.

Peter: Lord, maybe everyone else will trip and fall tonight, but I will not. I'll be beside You, no matter what.

Jesus: If only that were true. In fact, this very night, before the cock crows in the morning, you will deny Me three times.

Peter: No! I won't deny You. Even if that means I have to die with You!

Scene Three

<u>Narrator:</u> At that, Jesus led His disciples to the place called Gethsemane. He instructed them to keep awake in prayer, and then went off by himself to pray.

<u>Jesus:</u> Father, this is the last thing I want. If there is any way, please take this bitter cup from me....yet, not my will, but Yours be done.

<u>Narrator:</u> Jesus returned to his disciples, and was dismayed to find them asleep. But as he approached, Peter awoke, and he spoke to Peter.

<u>Jesus:</u> So you couldn't keep watch with Me for just one short hour? Now maybe you're learning: the spirit is willing, but the body is weak. Keep awake, watch and pray that you are not pulled down during a time of testing.

Narrator: Jesus went off once more by himself to pray.

<u>Jesus:</u> Father, if there is no other way for this cup to pass without my drinking it—then not My will, but Yours be done.

Narrator: Again Jesus returned to His disciples and found them asleep. So Jesus left them and returned again to prayer. And once he was finished with prayer, Jesus returned to his disciples once more.

Jesus: Well, I see you are still sleeping; are you getting a good long rest? Now the time has come; the Son of Man is just about to be given over to the betrayers and the sinners. Get up; we have to be going. Look, here comes the one who's going to betray me.

Scene Four

<u>Marrator:</u> Judas, one of the twelve, approached leading a crowd of people from the chief priests and elders with swords and clubs, ready to arrest Jesus.

<u>Judas Iscariot:</u> Now listen, I'll greet Him with a kiss and that is how you will know who to arrest.

Narrator: With that, Judas approached Jesus and greeted him with a kiss. Jesus sighed and looked at Judas with sadness.

Jesus: My friend, do what you have come to do.

<u>Narrator:</u> And at that, the company came and seized Him. One of the men with Jesus grabbed his sword and swung toward the high priest's slave, slicing off his ear. Jesus healed the man, saying:

<u>Jesus:</u> Put your sword back. People who live by the sword die by the sword. Surely you realize that if I called on My Father, He would send 12 legions of messengers to rescue Me. But if I were to do that, I would be thwarting the scriptural story, wouldn't I? And we must allow the story of God's kingdom to unfold.

Narrator: Jesus turned to the crowd.

Jesus: Why did you bring these weapons, these clubs and bats? Did you think I would fight you? That I would try to escape like a common criminal? You could have arrested me any day when I was teaching in the temple, but you didn't.

<u>Marrator:</u> And as Jesus was being arrested, all the disciples ran away in fear and abandoned

him. The crowd took Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest for questioning and judgement. Peter followed behind at a distance, not wanting to be associated with Jesus.

Scene Five

<u>Marrator:</u> The high priest and the council made false accusations of Jesus, although they were not able to justify their words. Finally, two men stood up.

<u>Bystander:</u> Look, He said, "I can destroy God's temple and rebuild it in three days." What more evidence do you need?

<u>Caiaphas:</u> Are you going to respond to these charges?

Narrator: Jesus remained silent.

Caiaphas: Tell us plainly: are you the Anointed One, the Son of God?

Jesus: You say so, and I will also say this: you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of God's power and glory and coming on heavenly clouds.

<u>Caiaphas:</u> Blasphemy! We don't need any more witnesses—we've all just witnessed this most grievous blasphemy, right here and now. So, gentlemen, what's your verdict?

Bystander: He deserves to die.

Narrator: Some of them struck Jesus and they spat in his face and hit Him, teasing him.

Scene Six

<u>Marrator:</u> As this was going on, Peter was sitting in the courtyard with some servants. One of the servant girls came up to him.

Servant Girl: You were with Jesus the Galilean, weren't you?

Peter: Not me! I don't know what you're talking about.

<u>Narrator:</u> He went out to stand by the gate. And as he walked past, another servant girl recognized him.

Another Servant Girl: That man over there—he was here with Jesus the Nazarene!

Peter: I don't know Him!

<u>Marrator:</u> Peter then went to chat with a few of the servants, and a little while later, some other servants approached him.

Another Servant: Look, we know that you must be one of Jesus' followers. You speak like you are from the same area as His followers.

Peter: No, no, no. I do not know Him!

<u>Narrator:</u> As the exclamation left his mouth, a cock crowed. And Peter remembered what Jesus had said. And Peter went outside, sat down on the ground, and wept.

Scene Seven

Narrator: In the morning, Jesus was bound and taken away to be handed over to Pilate, the governor of Judea. Meanwhile, when Judas saw that Jesus had been condemned, regretted what he had done. He took the silver back to the chief priests and elders.

Judas Iscariot: I can't keep this money! I've sinned! I've betrayed an innocent man! His blood will be on my hands.

Chief Priest: That is not our problem, what is done is done.

Narrator: Judas threw down the money in the temple, went off, and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver coins and used it to buy the Potter's Field, where those unfit for Jewish burial would be laid to rest.

Scene Eight

Narrator: Jesus was now standing before the governor, Pilate.

Pilate: Are You the King of the Jews?

Jesus: So you say.

<u>Narrator:</u> The chief priest and elders hurled their accusations—Jesus was a traitor, a rebel, crazy and blasphemous. Jesus did not respond

Pilate: Do You hear these accusations they are making against you?

Narrator: Jesus said nothing, which disturbed Pilate. Now, during Passover, the governor would customarily release a prisoner of the crowd's choosing. He would offer Jesus and Barabbas, a criminal, to the crowd. But Pilate had received a message from his wife, warning him to distance himself from the judgement of Jesus, an innocent man. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate offered them a choice:

Pilate: Whom do you want me to free? Barabbas or Jesus, whom some call the Anointed One?

<u>Narrator:</u> The chief priests and the elders, however, had riled up the crowd against Jesus. They shouted, "We want Barabbas!"

Crowd (shouting): We want Barabbas!

<u>Pilate:</u> What would you have me do with this Jesus, whom some call the Anointed One? They shouted, "Crucify Him!"

Crowd (shouting): Crucify Him!

Pilate: Why? What crime has this man committed? They shouted, "Crucify Him!"

Crowd (responding with a shout): Crucify Him! Crucify him!

Narrator: Pilate saw that unless he wanted a riot on his hands, he now had to bow to their wishes. So he took a pitcher of water, stood before the crowd, and washed his hands.

Pilate: You will see to this crucifixion, for this man's blood will be upon you and not upon me. I wash myself of this.

<u>Narrator:</u> The crowd responded, "Indeed, let his blood be upon us and our children!"

<u>Crowd:</u> Indeed, let His blood be upon us—upon us and our children!

Narrator: So Pilate released Barabbas, and he had Jesus flogged and handed over to be crucified.

Scene Nine

Narrator: The governor's soldiers took Jesus into a great hall and stripped him of his clothes. Wrapping him in a scarlet cloak and placing a thorny crown on his head, they bowed before him and mocked him, saying: "Hail, the King of the Jews!"

Soldiers-congregation: Hail, the King of the Jews!

Narrator: Then the soldiers spat on him and whipped him painfully. And once they had had their fun, they once again dressed him in his own simple clothes, and led him off to be crucified. They came to Golgotha, which means "Place of the Skull" and there, after they offered him a bitter drink, they had him nailed and crucified to the cross.

Narrator: As Jesus hung on the cross in pain, the soldiers cast lots and divided his clothes among them. They placed a sign over his head: "This is Jesus, King of the Jews." And then they crucified two thieves next to Him, one at His right hand and one at His left hand. Meanwhile, onlookers shouted curses and blasphemies at Jesus.

<u>Onlooker:</u> You're going to destroy the temple and then rebuild it in three days? Why don't you start with saving yourself? Come down from the cross if you can, if you really are God's Son.

<u>Chief Priest:</u> He saved others, but he can't save himself. If he is really the King of Israel, then let him climb down from the cross—then we'll believe him. He claimed communion with God—well, let God save him.

<u>Narrator:</u> Even the thieves hanging to His right and left poured insults upon Him.

Scene Ten

<u>Narrator:</u> And then, starting at noon, the entire land became dark. It was dark for three hours, and in the middle of the afternoon, Jesus cried out in a loud voice:

Jesus: Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani—My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Onlooker: He's calling on Elijah.

Narrator: One onlooker grabbed a sponge, steeped it in vinegar, stuck it on a reed, and gave Jesus the vinegar to drink.

Onlooker: Let us see if Elijah is going to come and rescue him.

<u>Narrator:</u> And then Jesus cried out once more, and then he breathed his last breath. And at that very moment, the temple curtain was torn in half, from top to bottom. The earth shook; rocks split in two; tombs burst open, and bodies of many sleeping holy women and men were raised up. Seeing all of this, the Centurion and soldiers were terrified. The soldiers proclaimed, "He really was God's Son!"

Soldiers-congregation: He really was God's Son!

<u>Narrator:</u> A number of women who had been devoted to Jesus were also present, watching from a distance. Mary Magdalene was there, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

<u>Narrator:</u> At evening time, a rich man from Arimathea arrived. His name was Joseph, and he had become a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked to be given Jesus' body; Pilate assented and ordered his servants to turn Jesus' body over to Joseph. So Joseph took the body, wrapped Jesus in a clean sheath of white linen, and laid Jesus in his own new tomb, which he had carved from a rock. Then he rolled a great stone in front of the tomb's opening, and he went away. Mary Magdalene was there, and so was the other Mary. They sat across from the tomb, watching, remembering.

Readers Theatre Participants

Narrators	Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane
	Vicar Joanna Kathol
Jesus	Dave Peloquin
Disciples	Tim Brausen
	Marty Moore
Judas	Clint Hughes
Peter	Dave Fernelius
Servant Girl 1	Jessica Hughes
Servant Girl 2	Ashley Galarneau-Becker
Servant Girl 3	Sue Ferkingstad
Onlooker	Stuart Lane
Caiaphas/Chief Priest and Elders	Grant Galarneau-Becker
Pilot	Chris Ipsen
Soldiers	Barret Lane & Congregation
Crowd	Congregation





Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 2nd-Palm Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

April 6th-Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 PM

April 7th-Good Friday Worship 3:00 PM

April 9th-Easter Sunday Worship at 9:30am

April Worship & Events

April 16th- Blessing of the Animals

April 30th- Raffle Drawing and Pancake Breakfast

April Activities

April 13th-Taco and Movie Night -Watching The Life of Pi!

Taco bar will be ready at 6:30 PM, movie will begin at 7:00 PM. Sign up in the narthex or RSVP by **April 11th** to the church office so we can plan for food.

