

TODAY'S BULLETIN

As We Gather: Step By Step

Today's processional Gospel looks at the first day of Holy Week, and the Passion carries us on to Jesus' tomb. Throughout the entire week, and since His transfiguration, our Lord has moved toward the cross step by step. Despite opposition from crowds and His circle of friends, He has been determined to love us to death so that He might open heaven to us by the grace of God. Zechariah had written about the procession centuries earlier, and Paul proclaims that God the Father has exalted Jesus for His steadfast commitment to our salvation. But this is no mere history! We also are called to follow, to live through each day, step by step, faithful under various circumstances yet confident of mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

EASTER LILIES: Today is the last day to order Easter lilies. Forms are available on the table in the church's narthex for you to order Easter Lilies. The cost per plant is \$10. You can fill out the form and place it on the folder on the church's desk or hand it to Pastor Iovine. Additionally, you can order your plants on the church website. Look for the Easter Lilies link where you can fill out the form and even pay for the plants.

HOLY WEEK CHURCH SERVICES:

Holy Week church services here at Saint Matthew's are as follows:

Palm Sunday: March 24 @ 9:30 am

Holy Thursday: March 28 @ 11:00 am

Good Friday: March 29 @ Noon

Saturday: March 30 @ 5:00 pm

Easter Sunday: March 31 @ 9:30 am

Holy Week evening services are held at Holy Trinity, 340 Palisade Avenue, Garfield:

Holy Thursday: March 28 - 7:30 pm

Good Friday: March 29 - 7:30 pm

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: We continue this week with our "Be Gracious to Me" bible study. Join us for Thursday for our Holy Thursday Church service in church at 11:00 am and then bible class at noon.



Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

New Milford, NJ
LCMS — New Jersey District

Saturday
March 23, 2024
Palm Sunday
(Observed)

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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OFFICERS
Edwin Geiger
Congregational President

Thomas Williams
Congregational Treasurer

Stephanie Coppola
Elder

Serving in Our Church Service Today: Ed Geiger
Serving Next Sunday: Stephanie Coppola, Elder
Sunday's Reader: Jodi Wangerin, Stephanie Coppola, Ed Geiger

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Our verse is taken from Mark 11:9

And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:

A food pantry needs update is available on the table in the back of the church. Take one along with you today!

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- Isaiah 25:6–9 (When the Lord swallows up death, it will be like having the best feast ever prepared.)
- 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 (Paul, persecutor of Christians, is one of many people who saw Jesus alive after death. The news is of primary importance for people of faith.)
- Mark 16:1–8 (The women are so shocked by the news of the resurrection that they initially tell no one.)

HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" - Hymn 457
- "Christ is Arisen" - Hymn 459
- "Now All the Vault of Heav'n Resounds" - Hymn 465
- "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" - Hymn 461

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICES

- **Lenten Midweek @ Holy Trinity - March 27 @ 7:00 pm**
- Holy Thursday, March 28 - 11 am @ Saint Matthew's
- Holy Thursday, March 28 - 7:30 pm @ Holy Trinity
- Good Friday, March 29 - Noon @ Saint Matthew's
- Good Friday, March 29 - 7:30 pm @ Holy Trinity
- Saturday, March 30 - 5:00pm @ Saint Matthew's
- Easter Sunday, March 31 - 9:30am @ Saint Matthew's
- Easter Sunday, March 31 - 11:30am @ Holy Trinity

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Observance of Palm Sunday

Blended Church Service - Divine Services 3, 4, and Creative Worship

Welcome & Church Announcements

Moment of Prayer

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P: Today is the beginning of Holy Week. During it we shall recall how our Savior gave His life so that our sins may all be forgiven, and heaven opened to us.

C: **Even during worship, our minds wander to other concerns.**

P: These concerns are already known to God. Give them into His loving hands for resolution, but turn your hearts and minds to focus on our Lord's step-by-step determination to free us from every sin. Confident of the forgiveness He won through His glorious death and resurrection, let us then admit our sinful condition to Him and to one another.

C: **I confess to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in my thinking, speaking, and acting. I am mired in sin and incapable of saving myself. Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake and because of His sacrifice for us fallen creatures, we beg You to forgive, strengthen, and turn us to Your will so that we may follow our Savior in loving service to You and to one another.**

P: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, who gave Himself over to death that we might have eternal life, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Salutation and the Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers

of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9–12

(The King comes humbly on a donkey.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the Observance of Palm Sunday is taken from Zechariah, Chapter 9:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5–11

(Because of His humble death, Christ has been exalted by the Father.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from Philippians, Chapter 2:

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 12:12–19

(The triumphal entry)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th Chapter:

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

A: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Today's Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ, our Lord; who step by step obediently went to the cross to overcome sin and death and give salvation to all who believe.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for in love and compassion You sent Your Son into our flesh so that He would obediently go, step by step, to the cross, whereby His glorious death He would accomplish salvation for us. We ask You for His sake to forgive, renew, and strengthen us as we gather now and when we join the faithful at the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone, O Father, be all glory with the Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \mp body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also 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 testament in My \mp blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

A: 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.

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Distribution

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Thanks and praise to You, gracious God, for the gift of Your Son's body and blood, by which we are assured that His victorious death and resurrection mean grace and every blessing now and into an eternity with You. Strengthen us by this Sacrament that we may serve You constantly in faith and fervent love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Moment of Prayer