

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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The community of Apostles Lutheran Church warmly welcomes you to worship today!

As Lutheran Christians, we proclaim that there is nothing, no human action that we can undertake, to earn God's love or the gift of God's grace. It is a gift promised and given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh. It is a gift given to everyone regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or background. This Easter promise, this gift of grace, frees us from the fear of having to earn God's love and it moves us to simply try to love our neighbor as best we can. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others and proclaim that there is a place for you at Christ's table.

Welcome, celebrate this good news with us!

Pastor Peter Edwardsen

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH
Service of Holy Communion
April 13, 2025
Palm & Passion Sunday

In Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his followers cry out for justice. They have seen his acts of power and declare him the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Hearing a crowd declare Jesus a ruler was unsettling to the powerful. When the religious authorities tell Jesus to quiet his disciples, he instead reveals that it is not only humanity that cries out for justice, but the whole creation. "The stones would shout out," Jesus tells them (Luke 19:40). In this moment, we see an alignment between God, the faithful, and creation crying out for justice together.

We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
C: ***Amen.***

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

Silence is kept 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.

P: 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.**

Kyrie

(#152 ELW)

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, have mercy.*

Prayer of the Day

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together the prayer for today, April 13th, Palm Sunday.

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #344 ELW

*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, the King and Blessed One. [Refrain]*

*The company of angels is 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]*

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

*This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant’s obedience
amid persecution. Though the ser-vant has been variously understood as the prophet
himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of
Christ in these poems.*

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

118:1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

118:2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

118:20 This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

118:21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

118:22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

118:23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

118:24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

118:25 Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

118:26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

118:27 The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

118:28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

118:29 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***Anthem: "Open Wide the Gates" by Mary Kay Beall
Performed by the Apostles Lutheran Church Choir and Phyllis Griffiths.***

Please rise, if you are able, for the Gospel reading.

Gospel Acclamation

“Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us” pg. 189 ELW

*Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.*

The Gospel: Luke 19:28-40 (*please see insert*)

At the culmination of his earthly ministry Jesus enters into Jerusalem in triumph followed by great crowds proclaiming him as blessed King. However, these same voices that are raised in celebration and expectation now will soon change their cry soon after.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 19th chapter.

All: Glory to you O Lord.

After the reading

P: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, this is the Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: *The Rev. Peter Edwardsen*

Please rise if you are able.

Hymn of the Day: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” #351 ELW

*O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.*

*How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;
how does thy face now languish, which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.*

*What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.*

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in that joyful baptismal promise, we celebrate and confess our faith using the words of 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 and Concerns of the Community

“Come Bring Your Burdens to God” *South African Traditional*
Come, bring your burdens to God. Come, bring your burdens to God.
Come, bring your burdens to God. For Jesus will never say no. (sing twice)

D: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

The Deacon, pastor, or worship leader continues with the prayers. Each petition ends;

*D: God, in your mercy, **All: Receive our prayer.***

The final petition ends;

D: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Please be seated.

Offering

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to this feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **C: Amen.**

Please rise if you are able as the collection plates are presented at the table of the Lord.

Offertory music: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord” #184 ELW

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of
life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

Offertory prayer:

D: 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.

C: Amen

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Preface: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(ELW page 108)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.



Eucharistic Prayer:

P: 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, and 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.

Remembering, therefore his salutary command, his life giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to life as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer:

P: And now let us pray as our Lord Jesus has 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
(ELW page 112)**

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

Invitation to Communion

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. **C: Amen!**

Please be seated.

As sinners redeemed not by our own actions but by God's promise of grace alone Lutherans practice an open table: Christ invites all to the table. All who desire to receive communion are welcome. Christ turns no one away.

Ushers will direct you when to approach the altar rail. Communion trays contain empty cups for wine, as well as filled cups of grape juice in the center for those who cannot drink wine. If you have a gluten sensitivity, please tell the pastor as he approaches with the bread and he will offer you to take from the tray of gluten-free wafers.

If you are unable to approach the rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please let the ushers know.

Communion Hymn: "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said" #667 ELW

**"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be;
forsake the past, and come this day, and humbly follow after me."**

**Take up your cross; let not its weight pervade your soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up, sustain your heart, and nerve your arm.**

**Take up your cross, nor heed the shame, nor let your foolish heart rebel;
for you the Lord endured the cross to save your soul from death and hell.**

After all have received communion the community stands and sings three times:

***Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your Kingdom.***

Table Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep in you in his grace, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Canticle: “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” #207 ELW

*Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev’ryone what God has done.
Let ev’ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Amen. Amen.*

Post Communion Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE SENDING

Blessing

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” #335 ELW

*Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.*

*Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. [Refrain]*

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

We pray for those celebrating a Birthday:

4/14 Eileen Clark, 4/16 Sammy Edwardsen, 4/19 Eleanor Bravo



Please keep in prayer...

... all communities suffering and mourning due to natural disasters.

... all communities and peoples that suffer from intolerance, injustice, racism, and violence.

... all areas of the world living under threat of violence and war.

We stand with those communities and organizations, faith-based and secular, that work towards healing, justice, and peace.

We pray that the Holy Spirit brings comfort to those who mourn, strength to those who advocate for change, and peace to those who struggle to make sense of the senseless.

God's purpose for the church is to witness to God's grace, forgiveness, compassion, and justice.

We fulfill this promise by serving and caring for your local and global communities.

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The flowers on the altar are given by Paul

Goley,

In Celebration of Trina and Tristan's Birthday.

April 13th Altar Volunteers:

***Deacon: Mark L., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter & Usher: Paul G.,
Readers: Connie T., Mark L.,
Set Up: Sylvia D., & Clean Up: Connie***

T.

Maundy Thursday Volunteers:
Clean Up: Carol B.

Usher: Paul G., Set Up: Sylvia D., &

Good Friday Volunteers:

Usher, Set Up & Clean Up: Carol B.

Easter Sunday Volunteers:

***Deacon: David S., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter: Barb S & Usher: Carol B.,
Readers: Laura E., David S.,
Set Up: Carol B. & Clean Up: Barb S.***

Lenten Bible Study today, immediately after the service.

**You can still place an order for Easter Flowers today!
Order forms are on the table in the Narthex. Thank you.**

****Maundy Thursday (4/17) and Good Friday (4/18)
Services are at 6:30pm.****

April 24th: Food Closet, 1-3pm.

**Saturday April 26th: Annual Earth Day Cleanup.
See Ken for details on how you can participate!**

******Please use the forms that are located next to the flower chart in the Narthex and return them to the church office at least one week before the date(s) you have chosen. This is to ensure that your dedication will appear in the bulletin. Thank you! ******

The April-June Word in Season booklets are now in the Vestibule.

March 2025 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$38,339.83

Year to Date Expenses: \$39,940.79

Year to Date Margin: \$3399.04

Money Market/CD Balance: \$89,607.59

(For more information, please see Gene Abel or Joan Tartamosa)

There is now a “Memorial Wall” in the Narthex; if you would like, you can place a cross on the wall either in Honor of Loved ones who are no longer here, or to Memorialize an event. (We ask, if possible, that you include a command hook with the cross that you would like to place on the wall.)

If you wish to bring snacks for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex.

We are collecting the following: Linens--towels, sheets, and blankets. Medical supplies-- Alcohol wipes, infusion set-ups, tubing, syringes, etc. Also, dog food, empty ink cartridges of all types, and pull tabs from aluminum cans for dialysis credits.