

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620 www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

March 24, 2024 🕂 Palm Sunday

Welcome to Palm Sunday in The Parables of Lent series of services, which is based on the parable of the Lost Sheep. In this parable, Jesus challenges the Pharisees and scribes to consider leaving 99 sheep to find the one lost sheep. The service includes readings from Scripture, sermons, and hymns that help us to remember that Jesus is willing to risk everything to find us.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





Procession with Palms

(Based on Mark 11:1-11)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.**

When we were lost, our Savior sought us out, found us and rested us on his shoulders.

Our palms are raised in glory and honor to the One who has sought us out only and especially because he loves us.

Let us pray. (A brief silence is kept.)

O God who found us,

bless these branches raised in your name and to your glory, that they would be used as a way of honoring your sacrifice and giving you praise.

Be present in our praise that the words of grace you speak to us would resound back to you in shouts of joy and songs of acclaim. In the great name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Palm Sunday Reading

John 12:12-15

A reading from the Gospel according to John.
¹²The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.
¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel!"
¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:
¹⁵"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635 Public Domain

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As Jesus enters Jerusalem and this Holy week begins, our hearts are turned to the Lord in repentant confession, for it is our sin that draws him to the cross and causes him to give his life. (Silence is kept for self-reflection and confession.) Most merciful God, like lost sheep we have strayed from you. Because of our sinfulness and selfishness we have sought the things that give us pleasure instead of following after the things that show our faith in you and our love for others. We are lost in the wilderness of our sin by what we think, say, and do, and by the things that we leave undone. Out of your great love and mercy, find us, your lost sheep, forgive us of our sin and grant us your grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Like a shepherd who searches for a lost sheep, Jesus came searching for us in the midst of our sin solely because he desired to give us what we need the most: the forgiveness of all of our sins. He came from heaven to earth to accomplish this monumental task. Because we were lost in sin,

Jesus' searching heart found us and now forgives us.

Because of the sacrifice of the Good Shepherd,

all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)* Lord Jesus Christ.

as we celebrate your triumphal, yet peaceful entry into Jerusalem, remind us that you entered Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday to seek us out and to create the way that leads to our salvation. We were lost in our sins, doomed to die eternally

and assaulted by the attacks of the devil.

But now that we have been found by the Savior of the world, we are free to wave our palm branches in praise to you, the one who lifts us on your shoulders and carries us home. Amen.

Hymn of PraiseHe'll be Riding on a DonkeySSHe'll be riding on a donkey when he comes.
He'll be riding on a donkey when he comes.
He'll be riding on a donkey, He'll be riding on a donkey,
He'll be riding on a donkey when he comes.SSv. 2We will all come out to meet him when he comes.
We will lay our coats before him when he comes.SSv. 4We will wave our palms to greet him when he comes.

SS Bell Choir Anthem The Old Rugged Cross

+ WORD +

First Reading

Isaiah 66:12-14

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

A Reading from Isaiah.

¹²For thus says the LORD:

I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees.

¹³As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies. *The Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God**.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:13-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly in the midst of adversity.

A reading from First Peter.

¹³For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right.

¹⁵For it is God's will that by doing right

you should silence the ignorance of the foolish.

¹⁶As servants of God, live as free people,

yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil.

¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the family of believers.

Fear God. Honor the emperor.

¹⁸Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference,

not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh.

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God,

you endure pain while suffering unjustly.

²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it,

you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called,

because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example,

so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse;

when he suffered, he did not threaten;

but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,

so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;

by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Lenten Verse

ELW setting 4



Luke 15:1-7

Holy Gospel

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying,

"This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable:

⁴Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness

and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?

⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.

⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me,

for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you,

there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents

than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

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

Children's Time Sermon

Receive Love



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Apostle's Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith... 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 People

P Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A God, who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one, you were diligent in seeking out all of us who were lost. You came into this world to accomplish that very mission and you entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to secure our salvation by your own suffering and cross.
As you rejoice over one sinner who repents, enable us to always rejoice over our own salvation. Good Shepherd and Seeker of the lost, thank you for finding and redeeming me.

- P God, who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one, your sacrifice is for all the nations of the earth.
 We ask for your favor upon all governments, leaders and officials, that they would see your work in their midst and acknowledge you as the only true King. Use your people everywhere to promote peace, justice and healing wherever it is needed for your glory and for the sake of your Church.
 Good Shepherd and Seeker of the lost, thank you for finding and redeeming me.
- A God, who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one, you use your Church today to seek and to save those who are lost in their sin and unbelief.
 Enable and empower each one of us to have a passion for reaching those who have fallen away from the faith or do not yet know you. Use the gifts you have given us to bring to others your Word, your love and your grace. Good Shepherd and Seeker of the lost, thank you for finding and redeeming me.
- P God, who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one, your seeking love finds those who are sick and suffering. Please remember those among us who are in need of health and healing, especially... Grant them your favor and your peace. Give them what they need so that body and soul are healed. Good Shepherd and Seeker of the lost, thank you for finding and redeeming me.
- A God, who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one, we are thankful for your grace that led those near and dear to us into the faith, who now rest from the labors of this life.
 Grant us the resolve to follow after their model in firm faith, trusting in your goodness and relying on your forgiveness.
 Good Shepherd and Seeker of the lost, thank you for finding and redeeming me.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

+ OFFERING +

Offering Response What Feast of Love #487 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quetcome from heav - en? What light of truth of - fered here, what cov - c - nant from heav - en? is 2 What wine of love of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en? ٦ is of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift What food giv - en? is What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en? What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en? This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en. This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en. This, this heav - en. is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of Oh, taste and see sing! How sweet the and man - na giv - en! God Oh. and hear and sing! The Word of see is. giv - en! Oh. taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

> Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 © 1993 Delores Dufner, published by OCP Publications Reprinted with permission under One License #A-711706 Music: English ballad, 16th cent.; Public Domain

+ MEAL +



Proper 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:





Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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. With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.



Distribution with silence for meditation

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat: The body of Christ, given for you. Amen. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.) Lord Jesus Christ, as you took possession of your city on a beast of burden, so you have entered our hearts through the humble forms of bread and wine. Inspire us to discern you in your coming and to hail you as our King. You are the Lord forevermore. Amen.

+ SENDING +

Announcements

Benediction

You have received the love of God in Christ Jesus. Receive now his blessing: The Triune God, who like a shepherd seeks and saves the lost, grant you peace in knowing that you have been found, redeemed, and saved. Go now in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt.; Music: John Bacchus Dykes, 1823-1876 Public Domain

Palm Sunday Litany & Dismissal

Lord Jesus, ride on in majesty to seek and to save the lost. and to purchase our salvation with your own life.

Lord Jesus, ride on in majesty to the place where sin, death and the devil are defeated.

Lord Jesus, as you make your way to the Upper Room, Gethsemane, the Judgment Hall, the cross and the tomb, remind us of the sacrifice that saved us all who were lost. Stay with us as we follow you this week. When your passion brings us to tears and your glory brings us to praise, remind us that by your perfect grace we have been found. Amen.



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