



BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“The teacher is Christ, who humbled himself and became obedient even to death, death on the cross. When he teaches us humility, he does not lose his deity Jesus was king of Israel in wisely ruling to lead those who believe, hope and love into the kingdom of heaven. For him to become king of Israel was an annihilation for him, not an advance, for he was already the Son of God, equal to the Father, the Word through which all things were done. It was a sign of mercy, not an increase in power.” — St. Augustine

Dear Saints,

Passion Sunday 28 Mar. 2021

The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday, or the Passion Sunday, which introduces Holy Week, the most celebrated and important week in the Christian calendar that hallmarks the final days of our Lord’s passion. The distinctive ceremonies of the day are the blessing of the palms, the procession representing Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem a week before his resurrection. The Palm Sunday procession is attested for Jerusalem as early as the 300s. The palms themselves carry the symbol of the victor’s entrance into the city. The entire ceremony and biblical texts are full of irony and miscalculations on the part of the people, missing the true meaning of Christ’s intent to conquer by the cross.

On this day Christians throughout the world begin the great and holy week that culminates in the central celebration of our holy faith: the Lord Jesus’ passage from death to new life celebrated in the Three Days. Today’s reading of the Messiah’s passion sets forth the central act of God’s self—revealing love for humankind. In the reception of the Lord’s true body and blood, the Church receives this life-giving love. In prayer, hymns, and readings, we hear the great paradox of our faith: Christ is proclaimed the mighty king who reigns not by way of the so-called “triumphal entry” but from the cruciform tree of life – the Cross of Calvary.

The Procession. The Palm is an ancient symbol of regality and victory – a most appropriate symbol as Jesus the messianic king approaches Jerusalem, the seat of David. But so far from ascending the throne of David as the new Solomon, Jesus is coronated on the Cross. It would be from Golgotha that Jesus will rule and reign over the kingdoms of the earth. Our procession of palms bears resemblance to the character of a protest march, a veritable political witness that Christian allegiance is to “the kingdom of our once-crucified Lord” and not to “the kingdoms of this world,” indeed, to Christ and not Caesar.

HOLY WEEK	Mar. 28	Palm Sunday <i>Sunday of the Passion</i>	Zech. 9:9–12	Psalm 118:19–29 or Psalm 31:9–16	Phil 2:5–11	Matt. 26:1— 27:66 or Matt. 27:11–54
	Apr. 1	Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Ex. 12:1–14 or Ex. 24:3–11	Psalm 116:12–19	1 Cor. 11:23–32	John 13:1–15 (34–35)
	Apr. 2	Good Friday	Is. 52:13—53:12	Psalm 22 or Psalm 31	2 Cor. 5:14–21 <i>Note the Altar Book lists the Three- Year Epistle</i>	John 18:1— 19:42
EASTER	Apr. 4	The Resurrection of Our Lord	Job 19:23–27	Psalm 118:15–29	1 Cor. 5:6–8 or 1 Cor. 15:51–57	Mark 16:1–8

***Passion Sunday.** 28 Mar. Color: **Red.** Processional 442; Kyrie; Hymn of the Day 441; Psalm 31 chanted responsively during distribution; Distribution Hymn: 444; Post-Communion Cantic: Nunc Dimittis; Recessional 443. Sermon: St. Matthew 27.15-22, "Not This Man."

* The custom of the Church is to wear red on Passion Sunday. Please arrive 10 minutes early for Mass, as the Divine Service begins *outside* with the Procession of Palms.

Catechesis. Sunday catechesis for all from 1400 - 1445: "Where Heaven and Earth Meet." Session 3 (Part II): "The Psalms." No Academy on Easter. First Sunday of Easter: Session 4: "Entering the World of the Psalms with Christian Eyes."

UPCOMING:

- (1) *Holy Week Divine Services:* Maundy Thursday 6pm, Good Friday 7pm, Easter Vigil (11pm), The Resurrection of our Lord 3pm (No Augsburg Academy).
- (2) Confirmation Catechesis 4:30pm Wednesday. *No confirmation class Holy Week (31 March) or 7 April.*
- (3) Please consider bringing your Easter lilies to decorate the Church for Easter Mass.
- (4) Our Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, will be visiting Blessed Sacrament in April. He will preach while Pastor Bombaro serves as the Celebrant.

In our prayers: Thanksgiving to God that much of global Christendom will gather this Sunday. But, alas, after the ravages of covid lockdowns, there are justified fears that as many as 30 percent of the Christians have developed habits outside regular attendance to Mass and will not return to our Holy Mother Church where Christ is worshipped and received in Word and Sacrament. Let us pray to the Lord for faith return along with repentance.

We pray for Kipp (cancer) and Sorin (recovering from jaw surgery).

We pray for our nation. Lord, have mercy.

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor John