

# *Palm Sunday*

## *March 25, 2018*

Today's story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is full of noise and excitement. The mood is brimming with hope that Jesus is finally ready to overthrow the Roman government, clean out the temple and start a kingdom ruled by Israel for Israel. You know the story ends differently. Jesus did not march into Jerusalem for a people, but for *all* people. Later this week, the mood will brim not with hope, but with despair. The band will pack up and the people who welcomed Jesus will walk away with their kingdom hopes shattered. This year, may Holy Week awaken you to a kingdom driven by love, and to the Love of God that refused to die.

### **- Gathering -**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### Musical Meditation

*(All children are invited to the back of the church to join in the procession with palm branches.)*

Liturgy of the Palm *(From the back of the church)*

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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

God of the foolish cross, tottering down the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey,

**You are not the savior we expect.**

Your power does not look like the power we want our God to demonstrate.

**Your wisdom makes no sense to us.**

We are happy to join the crowd waving branches,

**But not so sure we want to follow you,**

into the temple courts, **into the upper room**

into the Garden of Gethsemane, **to the foot of the cross.**

Forgive our false assumptions. **Clarify our clouded vision.**

Let us relax into the foolishness of your love. **Hosanna. Hosanna. Amen.**

#### Processional Gospel

(before reading: **Glory to you, O Lord.** after: **Praise to you, O Christ!**)

#### Blessing of Palms

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise and thank you...now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of the Lord.**

#### **Processional Song – Brooklyn**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**  
Greeting and Prayer of the Day – see insert

## **- Word -**

*God speaks to us in Scripture, reading, preaching and song.*

Sermon

### **Hymn of the Day – #344 All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

(8:00 a.m.) Nicene Creed – Page 104

(10:30 a.m.) Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Page 227 (*Jude Michael Sisson*)

### **Hymn – #677 (V.1) This Little Light of Mine**

Sharing the Peace (*Response: And also with you.*)

## **- Meal -**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering *Special music by the Senior Choir*

### **Offertory Hymn – #802 (V. 1) Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus**

Offering Prayer, Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 206-207

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily  
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the  
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Distribution of Bread and Wine

*All who believe in the redeeming power of Christ's love are welcome at the Lord's Table.*

Lamb of God – Page 208

### **Hymns – #487, #335, #838**

Blessing and Post-Communion Prayer

## **- Sending -**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Blessing

### **Recessional Song – When the Saints Go Marching In**

Passion Gospel Reading – *Mark 15:1-39*

*(We depart quietly)*

# Welcome to Worship at St. John!

If you are worshipping for the first time, we hope you feel joyfully welcomed! Worship is the most important thing we do together: Gathering in God's Name, Hearing God's Word, Sharing in the Holy Meal, and then Sending You to Shine Christ's Light in the World.

We believe worship brings abundant life and freedom to you and to your neighbor. There are four worship services offered each week at St. John, providing a variety of ways to worship. We encourage you to try them all to find the right fit for you.

To learn more about worship and St. John's story,  
click on the GET TO KNOW US page at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org)

## ~ To Assist You at Worship ~

- If you are considering becoming a member at St. John, we ask that you begin by visiting with a pastor and attending a *new member coffee*, held four times each year. For details, click on the MEMBERSHIP link on the GET TO KNOW US page at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org).
- Personal amplifiers for the hearing impaired are available. Please ask an usher.
- Children's worship bags are in the narthex and the Commons Area.
- Childcare: Children are always welcome in worship, but if a parent feels that little hands, feet and voices are making it difficult for others to worship, the nursery is staffed during the 10:30 a.m. service. If a child needs a shorter break, there is wiggle room and a glider chair in the narthex.
- Holy Communion is celebrated at each worship service. The table is open to all who believe in the redeeming power of Christ's love. You may stand or kneel and receive the bread and wine. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice, simply ask the person serving.
- The decision about when a child should commune is made by the parent. We encourage families to visit with a pastor to learn about the sacrament before communing for the first time. Children communing should extend their hands. Children not communing are invited to fold their hands.
- Coffee is served in the Commons Area before Sunday worship services.
- St. John is a member congregation of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** and part of the **Western North Dakota Synod**. St. John is a corporate member of Badlands Ministries Bible Camp and St. Luke's Nursing Home. ELCA and LCMS congregations in western and eastern North Dakota own Lutheran Social Services of N.D., a private, nonprofit social services agency.

~ Introductions to the Readings ~

**Mark 15:1-39** - The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.

~ Worship Leaders ~

Preaching Minister .....	Pastor Joe Natwick	
Presiding Minister .....	Pastor Lisa Lewton	
Assisting Ministers .....	None	Thursday
	Marcy Decker	8:00 AM Sunday
	Patrick Healy	10:30 AM Sunday
Deacons.....	Darlene Pelton	8:00 AM Sunday
	Jesse Kilwein	10:30 AM Sunday
Organist .....	Barb Arneson	Thursday
	Barb Arneson	Sunday
Servers .....	Gavin Weiler	Thursday
	Cody Foss & Amy Fridley	8:00 AM Sunday
	Ella Healy & Weston Klatt	10:30 AM Sunday

**PALM SUNDAY NOTES**

Today's service begins with loud noise and excitement. When Jesus processed into Jerusalem, it was a subversive act to gain the attention of the crowds; but what Jesus really hoped to do was gain the attention of the Roman government. He wanted to make a scene. That is why today's service begins so loudly.

The service will conclude with an abrupt and uncomfortable transition to the passion narrative. This is to remind you the excited entry into Jerusalem will soon become a somber exit to Golgotha.



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

March 25 – Palm Sunday            8:00 & 10:30 am  
March 28 – *NO ACTIVITIES on Wednesday*  
March 29 – Maundy Thursday    7:00 pm (*Washing of the Hands*)  
March 30 – Good Friday            7:00 pm (*Led by the Senior High youth*)  
*(There is no Easter Vigil Service this year.)*



**April 1 – EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

7:30 am / 9:00 am / 10:30 am

## ~ This Week at St. John ~

Monday, Mar 26	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Scouts Scouts
Tuesday, Mar 27	8:30 AM	Lutheran World Relief Quilting
Wednesday, Mar 28	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting
Thursday, Mar 29	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Backpack Prep Worship – Maundy Thursday
Friday, Mar 30	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study/Breakfast at Perkins Backpack Delivery Worship – Good Friday
Saturday, Mar 31	10:00 AM	UMC Sunday School in basement
Sunday, Apr 1	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 10:30 AM	Worship – Easter

### WORSHIP LIFE

At worship services this past week, these numbers reflect how many people were sent to *Live in Service to Christ*: Wednesday 109, Thursday 51, and Sunday 335.

### BAPTISM

On Sunday, we celebrate the baptism of **Jude Michael Sisson**. His parents are Mathew and Rachael Sisson. The sponsors are Jasmin Teigan and Tony Sisson.

### THANK YOU

Thank you to the band from Dickinson State University, under the direction of Dr. Jeremy Woehliz: Paige Langhoff, Rachael Solberg, Tanner Bush, Julianne Skaff, Cole Beck, Nana Nagashima, Chris Prchal, Morgan Hutzenbiler, and Presley Weiler. And thank you to the St. John Trust Fund for providing a small stipend to each musician.

### WELCOME DINNER (a meal for curious people)

SUNDAY, APRIL 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Anyone curious about joining St. John is encouraged to come for dinner in the church basement. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to staff member Amy Graves at [agraves@stjohnelc.org](mailto:agraves@stjohnelc.org) or 225-6747 by April 4th. You are not obligated to join by attending the dinner.

The evening will be led by both pastors and include:

- What it means to be a Christian who is Lutheran.
- The mission and vision at St. John.
- What is going on at St. John and ways you might wonder about sharing your own passions.

~ SERVE & CONNECT ~

**6<sup>th</sup> GRADE "YOUTH GROUP"**



**March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Come and find out what lies ahead .... Youth Group! This night is an introduction to youth group – there will be pizza, games and great conversations! Bring a friend!

**THEOLOGY ON TAP**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00 pm (Players Sports Bar)**

This is a monthly gathering of people who enjoy having meaningful conversations and discussions over a pint a beer. Each month, we meet at a local establishment to talk about topics related to faith and life. Everyone is welcome to join in the incredible evening! If beer isn't your thing – no worries! You do not have to drink beer to participate! If you would like some info on this upcoming class, email Pastor Joe ([inatwick@stjohnelc.org](mailto:inatwick@stjohnelc.org)). He will send you the "pre-work" to get you thinking about the topic!

*\*\*This month, we will have access to the reserved room at 6:00 pm! Come and enjoy a meal before class!*

**DO YOU HAVE EGG CARTONS?**

The AMEN FOOD PANTRY needs egg cartons, either 12 or 18 count is acceptable. Egg cartons can be taken to the Food Pantry on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 2:00-4:00 OR you can drop them off at the church and they will be taken to the Food Pantry. Thank you for your help!

**BADLANDS MINISTRIES CAMPERSHIPS**

**Available April 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

If you would like to utilize a campership to help pay for Bible Camp this summer, contact Pam Weidner, Finance Admin. Assistant at 701.225.6747 or [pweidner@stjohnelc.org](mailto:pweidner@stjohnelc.org) to get signed up! Camperships are limited, and only one campership per person is allotted.

**BUTTER BRAIDS**

**March 28<sup>th</sup> – pick up your braids!**

If you sold Butter Braids, you can pick up your order on Wed., March 28<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 4:00 pm or during church office hours beginning March 29<sup>th</sup>. You can also pick up your braids before and after worship services. Braids will be stored in the basement kitchen freezer, and labeled with your name. If you need assistance, please have a staff member help you.

**ALL PROGRAMS RESUME APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>!**

On Wed. April 4<sup>th</sup>, we go back to our regular schedule!

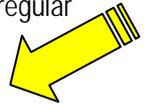
5:15 pm Fellowship supper

6:00 pm Church School

Infant/Toddler class

6:30 pm Camp-style Worship

7:00 pm Confirmation



**SUNDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**FAIR TRADE SUNDAY!** (Commons area)

Shop for fair trade tea, chocolate, coffee, or gifts before and after worship service. Fair Trade sales support small scale farmers in remote places in the world through Lutheran World Relief.

**CHURCH POTLUCK!**

Bring any favorite dish to share (anything from a hot dish to a bag of chips) and have lunch following 10:30 am worship!

Visit us at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org) for updates on activities & schedules!