INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"RIDE ON, RIDE ON IN MAJESTY"

ELW 346

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Be sure to join in following Christ to the Cross.

There you can lay your burdens down and be ready to receive Easter joy and power.

Maundy Thursday at 7pm

Good Friday at 7pm

ALTAR FLOWERS

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Marc Sweet and the peace that transcends all understanding.

Given by the Sweet family.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. Keith Copeland Chris Micci, Organ button pusher

Assisting Minister: Brittany Conner Greeter: Cozette Nowak

Reader: Lucille Pushman, Mike Hix,

Jim Jones, Pastor Merkel

Ami-Luise Vucovich

Communion Karen Smith &
Assistants: Cheris Copeland
Audio/Video: Behm/Vucovich
Ushers: Bob Morris
Altar Guild: Jan Brauer
Altar Flowers: Sweet family

Friendship Room:

CONTACT US:

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Keith Copeland;

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(704) 201-6633

Financial Recording Specialist, Kathy West;

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Church Website - www.stlukeselca.org

Saint Luke's Lutheran

3200 Park Road Charlotte, NC 28209 (704) 523-7981 Palm Sunday April 13, 2025 10:00am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, we gather for worship to practice joy: not because our lives are perfect, but because joy is resilient, God's gift for every season and the wellspring at the heart of our faith.

When our sins feel heavy, we practice joy. When floods rise and fall, we practice joy. When hope surprises us, we practice joy. When God sets people free, we practice joy. When Jesus heals us, we practice joy. When we are called, we practice joy. When we endure, we practice joy. We practice joy together, and God is with us.

ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 256)
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

(NRSV NT p. 101)

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸ After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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

BLESSING OF PALMS

(ELW p. 256)

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PROCESSION (ELW p. 256)

Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSION HYMN

"ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR"

ELW 344

Refrain

- All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
- 1 You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son, now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One.
 Refrain
- 2 The company of angels are praising you on high; creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. Refrain
- 3 The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went; our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. Refrain

- 4 To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. Refrain
- 5 Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. Refrain

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

(ELW p. 257)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now... one God. now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH & NOISY OFFERING

Chronological, narrative book series called "The Story" by Max Lucado, Randy Frazee and Karen Hill. & Noisy Offering: The Center for Community Transitions.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

(NRSV OT p. 833)

⁴ The Lord GoD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵ The Lord GoD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me. and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷ The Lord GoD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸ he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a} It is the Lord GoD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

CHIOR Anthem "Hosanna" by Craig Courtney

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

(NRSV NT p. 240)

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

STORY SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN"

ELW 343

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

- ...God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.
- ...in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. Amen.

PEACE

OFFERING

ORGAN ANTHEM

OFFERING RESPONSE

ELW 181

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together ...God of mercy and grace, you give us so much: our days, our loved ones, our passions and talents, the food we eat, the homes we know, a place to worship. God, you pour out an abundance of goodness. Receive the gifts we offer back to you today. Bless them and bless us, that we will give generously, love boldly, and share widely, our offering reflecting your joyful gift. Amen

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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.