



**March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday, Year B
9:00 a.m.**

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

**Reverend Maggie Westaby
5304 N 44th Ave
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401
Web Address: stjohnwausau.org
E-mail: pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com
Email: stjohnwausau@msn.com**

Office: (715) 675-6950



Worship service begins with a procession from the fellowship hall into the sanctuary. If you prefer not to process, please be seated in the sanctuary.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs.

Fill the air with welcome to the Lord.

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom. Hosanna in the highest!

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

All Glory, Laud, And Honor (ELW 344 or as printed in your bulletin)



All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One,
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

GATHERING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Holy God,
We confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us we pray. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Salvation,

As we gather on this Palm Sunday, we are reminded of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, with waving palm branches and shouts of Hosanna! Yet, we also know the path that lies ahead. Pour out your Spirit among us during this holiest of weeks and make your presence known. Sustain us with your love and fill us with your hope, till we gather together with joy on Easter morning.

Amen.

READING: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

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

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

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

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

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

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

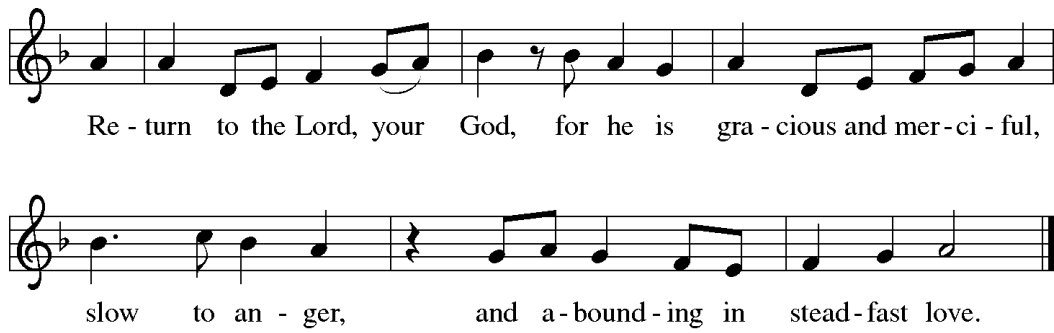
The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God



GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

The holy gospel according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sunday School Children

GIVING OF BIBLES

A BIBLE BLESSING

May you find joy, comfort, wonder, and God's love in these pages.

May you discover our roots and the unique history of our faith.

May you experience God's Word in your soul.

May you relish the Old Testament, with stories over 10,000 years old.

When stories were shared only by word of mouth,

Passed on from generation to generation.

To provide people with hope, laughter, and God's love.

So that each person could experience God's faithfulness,

And desire for relationship.

May you ponder the New Testament, may you find Jesus, and find awe.

May your relationship with God be deepened.

May God's Word be like rich and nourishing soil,

Sprouting joy and kindness abundantly around you.

May you grow in God's Word, finding truth, guidance, and peace.

In the name of the Holy Trinity † One God. Amen

BIBLE PRAYER

Awesome God,

We give thanks for these young minds. May you cultivate curiosity in their faith and joy in their hearts. May each of them know that they are called by name, to grow in life and to grow in faith.

Bless them, guide them, and keep them safe. May Your Word be a lamp unto their feet and a light onto their path. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Responding to "Hear us, O God," with "Your mercy is great."

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Jesus gave himself for the life of the world. With humble hearts bowed in awe, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING 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.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's table; here you will find bread for the journey. Come to the banquet, here you will find a feast for hungry hearts. Come to our Lord; who forgives, sustains, and restores. Amen.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Gift of Finest Wheat

Refrain

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.

Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;

- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

Refrain

so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922-1996
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
 Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
 Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,

At your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May our hearts sing of love, pouring out upon creation.

May our hearts sing of peace, that can calm us in frustration.

May our hearts sing of joy, bursting bright with jubilee.

May our hearts sing of faith, in a God who sets us free.

May our hearts sing of life, lived with abundant grace.

And may our hearts sing of glory, till we meet God face to face.

In the name of the Creator, and of the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;
 Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.
 lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Text: Eliza A. Hoffman, 1839-1919
 Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Welcome to worship this Palm Sunday. As we follow Jesus into Jerusalem, the city of his death but also his resurrection, may we experience the wonder of his love.

I pray for growth in faith to follow you, Lord, through both cross-like and resurrection-like times in my life.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Shopping Cart* next to the main entrance. **Reminder, food pantries cannot accept expired donations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 24 at 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday & Bibles handed out to youth.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt: St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday, March 24th following worship! All children are welcome! We will gather the kids after Fellowship to read the Easter story, make a craft, and end with a candy-filled Easter Egg Hunt!

Sign-up sheet for Easter Breakfast is in the Narthex. We are in need of volunteers to bring fruit, desserts, and to help clean and set up. Your time, talent, and dedication are appreciated to make Easter Breakfast a success!

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Holy Week 2024

Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service.

Friday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service.

**Easter Sunday, March 31 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services.
9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast.**

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Synod Assembly registration is now open. See Pastor Maggie to for details.

Maine Elementary is in need of black and grey sweatpants and leggings. Size 5-6, 6x, and 7-8. They are also in need of boys' and girls' undies in those sizes.

St. John Quilting Wishlist. Left over fabric or never used fabric, light weight denim, cotton or flannel sheets, pillow cases, cotton curtains (unlined), cotton shower curtains. If you are interested, come join us! You can also sew a quilt top from home. Size needed is 60 x 80. They do not need to be fancy. Thank you!

Men's Breakfast. Pastor Will from Trinity in Stettin and St. Peter's in Marathon has invited all men from St. John to meet the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. At LC Restaurant, in Marathon (Formerly the Village Inn).

Book Club Announcement. We will discuss, *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese on May 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John March 24 – March 31

Today

- 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship – Gather in the Fellowship Hall.
- 10:15 a.m. Easter Craft & Easter Egg Hunt!

March 26

- 8:30 a.m. Quilting
- 9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

March 28

- 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service

March 29

- 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service

March 31

- 8:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service