

Order of Service April 13, 2025—Barb Krug, Synod Authorized Minister
PALM SUNDAY / Communion St. John Lutheran Church

Service starts in the Narthex.

P: Gospel reading Luke 19: 28-38.

P: Let us join this celebration in Jerusalem that Jesus is leading.

Entire congregation processes in, singing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" vs 1, 3, 4 LBW #108
HP #1452

(Once around please, then take your seats – Children can come up front)

Children's message. (During the children's message, Psalm 24: 7-10 will be read by Shirley)

Children are dismissed to their seats – No Sunday School today

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
(Silence for reflection.)

P: Compassionate One,

C: You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. Amen.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

C: Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Share signs of Christ peace with one another.

Receiving our Offerings of Thanksgiving

Offering Prayer

P: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

L: A reading from Philippians, the 2nd chapter (2:5-11)
after the reading, "The word of the Lord." "Thanks be to God!"

pew Bible, p.1827

*The Holy Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 19th chapter (verses 39-44)

Before the gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord!**

After the gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Message – *'A letter to my family'*

***Hymn of the Day:** *"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"* LBW # 328 vs 1-4 HP#1672

*The Apostles' Creed

C: 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.

***The Prayers of Intercession** (Each petition ends: God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**)

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took the 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.

P: 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.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Distribution of Communion by Intinction

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

LBW # 551 HP #7

Announcements

***Grace** (*Spoken, by Barb*)

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **C:** Thanks be to God!

EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARTIN



I can still remember the pound of my heart to this day. It was Good Friday in the year 1995. I was working at Lutherdale Bible Camp as a year round staff and my task that day was to dismantle the several hundred foot zipline. It was a warm spring day, but I still experienced the wind that caused the tree that I was attached to to sway far more than I wanted it to. The tree itself was dying and thus it could no longer serve as the anchor of the zipline where the platform was. It was on that platform where youth and staff alike would find themselves transferring the rabbit ears attached to their harness to the zipline that would lead to the ensuing rush of emotions. As I stood on that platform, connected to a couple of tree staples with my own rabbit ears, I loosened the hardware that secured the zipline cable to the tree, bolt by bolt. It was quite a surreal experience.

As I loosened the final bolt, that cable released about a foot away from my face, causing my heart to beat in a way it has never beaten before or since. The sound haunted me for those few seconds as the cable fell to the ground about 40 feet below. Once I collected myself, all I could think about was how appropriate it was to watch the death of the zipline on Good Friday. That element was always the climax on the high ropes course. It was the final adventure for countless youth as they experienced the challenges of that course. Just step off the platform, trust, and fly!

I was saddened to see that zipline fall. But then I was overjoyed to see it rebuilt in a new and more secure location! It reminds me of that great Easter spiritual that states, "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming." It's the reminder that we call it Good Friday only because as Christian believers, we know that Easter is coming. Without Easter Sunday, Friday would have been even more devastating as it already was. Jesus' followers were lost, confused, and in deep sorrow. Those emotions resulted from the trauma that they were experiencing. But Easter reversed the pain of that trauma and turned it into a joyous chorus of "Alleluias" where we can now see God's almighty power being revealed! We can see how God has power over death itself and not just for Jesus. God's power to give life to all believers in all times and in all places through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what brings us joy, hope, comfort, and faith itself! God's power to renew our lives each and every day through the gift of forgiveness cannot be understated. God's desire to heal our broken relationship because of our sinfulness indicates the depth of that love, knowing that God so desperately desires to be with us forever.

That old zipline was a source of joy for so many people. But when contrasted with the joy we can experience daily, it simply pales in comparison. Friends, live into that joy of the resurrection. Remember the gift that Jesus embodies that is truly the greatest gift we've ever had - the gift of God's unconditional love. Despite the various losses that we grieve each year, some that appear to be quite unbearable at the time, remember the gift of Jesus. We are a resurrection church. We are a forgiven and forgiving people. And we bask in the glory of God's amazing grace.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Bishop Martin