

# St Stephen

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor



Encouraging and  
strengthening faith in Jesus,  
and sharing the joy of God's love.

April 5, 2020

Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

10:15am

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## Holy Communion

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### Introduction to the Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

*Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.*

### Gathering

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

### Welcome

### ACCLAMATION

*The presiding minister begins:*

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Savior, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

## **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11**

*The presiding minister reads the processional gospel.*

✠ The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>"Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **BLESSING OF PALMS**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept. The assembly raises their palm branches for the blessing.*

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**

*The assisting minister addresses the assembly.*

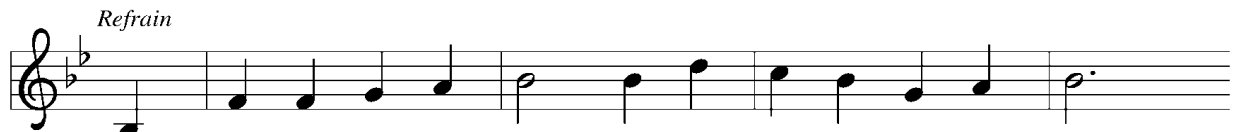
Let us go forth in peace,

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

"All glory, laud, and honor" (#344) and other hymns, psalms, or anthems may be sung as the ministers move to their places.

## All Glory Laud and Honor (Verses 1 and 5)

*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

*The presiding minister concludes the procession.*

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister introduces Holy Week before the prayer of the day. Then silence is kept before the presiding minister leads the prayer.*

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 31:9-16

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**

**my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.**

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

### SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

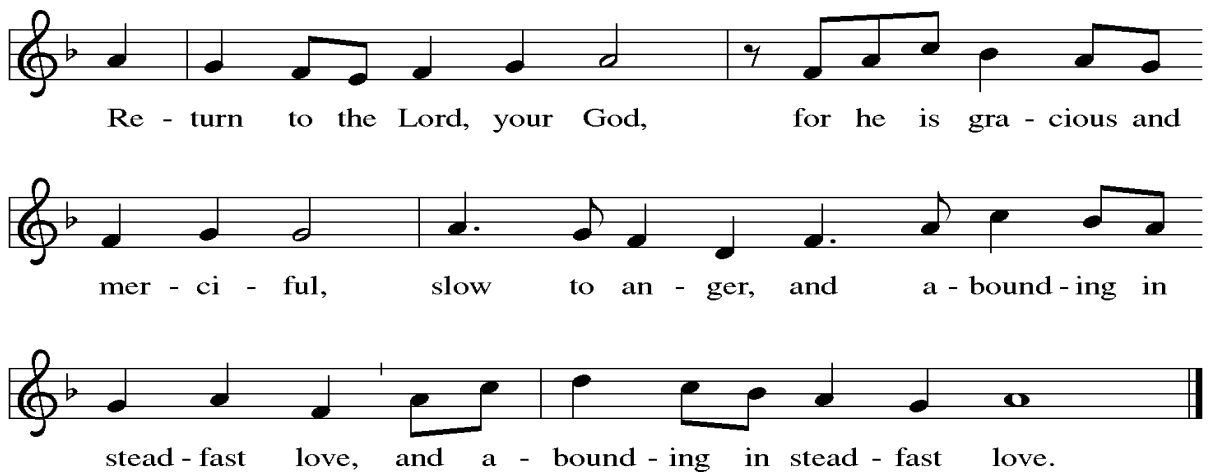
<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,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

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 26:14--27:66

P: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*The assembly is seated. The Passion is read in parts. At the arrival at calvary, the assembly stands. When Jesus dies, silence is kept.*

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*



**HOMILY**

**The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

**ELW # 351**



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**A:** Trusting in Christ's passover from death to new life, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*After each petition of the prayer is said:*

**A:** Hear us O God,

**C:** Your mercy is great.

**P:** Attend to the needs of the whole world with your saving grace, and lead us all into new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## MEAL

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

### SETTING OF THE TABLE

*The assembly stands.*

**OFFERING SONG:**

**Come to the Table**

**ELW# 481**



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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...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.

*The presiding minister continues to give thanks:*

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.... With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life... Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen**



P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### **Communion**

P: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

*The bread is broken for the communion. The assembly is seated.*

### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*The presiding minister leads a prayer for those who cannot receive holy communion today.*

The body of Christ, given for you. *Response: Amen.*

The blood of Christ, shed for you. *Response: Amen.*

### **Lamb of God**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869  
 Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

## Sending

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

## Parish Announcements

### SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE AND BLESSING

P: Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns forever and ever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.

C: Amen.



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;  
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!  
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.  
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Dolores Lauterberg, Jake Waldecki, Sera Butz, Harry Ambrose, George Arce, Laurel Blake, Dorothy Johnson, James Loggins, Don Schutt, Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Carol Chmelynski, Jimmy Fennelli, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Katie Paff, Bob Reinhold, and Shelley Amato.

## Prayers for Friends of the Parish

✠ Family traveling next weekend, Jojo, Daphne B., Jean Claud, Adrienne, Susan T. ✠ Those afflicted with coronavirus and those caring for them, Dieter, Jay & Maureen, Frank, Gail, Susan, Pat, Doris ✠ Diana, Julia, Iris, Adreina, Antonella, Guido, Guisepe, Missimo, Bruno, Vittoria, Mario, Cezore, Angelo, Susan, Esther, Dora, Ruedi, Christina, Carmen, Rosa, Anne, Alice and Nicole.

**In a facility or homebound:**

Barbara Kaptain - The Atrium Assistant Living at Boca Raton.

1080 NW 15TH Room 215 Boca Raton, Fl. 33486

Evelyn Braun - 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433

Jim Loggins - John Knox Village - Woodlands 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Bud Danker - 3020 N. Ridge Road Apartment W-316 Ellicott City, MD 21043

***Observe "The Three Days" (Easter Triduum) with us this week:***

***ALL SERVICES WILL BE ONLINE:  
www.facebook.com/sslcpompano  
www.ststephenlutheran.net***



**Maundy Thursday Liturgy—April 9**

7:00pm Holy Communion with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday—April 10**

12:15pm Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Good Friday Liturgy: Passion according to John, Veneration of the Cross, Solemn Bidding Prayers

**Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day—April 12**

10:15am Festival Holy Eucharist

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