

**Weisenberg Lutheran Church
7645 Weisenberg Church Road
New Tripoli, PA 18066
Phone: 610-298-2437**

**TRIUMPHAL ENTRY AND ANOINTING AT BETHANY
PALM SUNDAY
Worship Service 9:00 AM
March 24, 2024**

Welcome to worship at Weisenberg!

Please stand as you are able for all parts labeled (). Worship leaders [Pastor (P:) and Assistant (A:)] speak the plain text. The congregation (C:) responds with the words in **bold**.*

RINGING OF THE BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

TEMPLE TALK by Danielle

PRELUDE by Jubilant Ringers

"Praise His Name in the Dance"~ Hakes

ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 256) (Repeated 3 times)

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

C: Hosanna in the highest!

***PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL 11:1-11**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples²and 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

***BLESSING OF PALMS(ELW p. 256)**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. We praise you, O God,

C: 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)**

P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" No. 344

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.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A: As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray. God, our Blessed Sovereign,

C: We gather with shouts of ‘hosanna’, knowing full well that we will soon be shouting ‘crucify.’ Remind us that, come what may, you are still our God, and your love for us cannot be shaken, that we might go into this holy week with our eyes and ears open to what you would teach us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

PSALM 118:25-29

²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷The LORD is God,

and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,

up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Return to the Lord” (ELW p. 151)*

***GOSPEL Mark 14:3-9**

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 14th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way?"⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.⁶But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me.⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me."⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial.⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

R: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE by Karen Reinert

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Prepare the Royal Highway" No. 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: As we walk together through this season of contemplation and preparation, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: *As people once raised palms, so we raise our song and prayers to you, O God, as we follow throughout this crucial week. Assure us that you are always with us and your promises are true. God of the journey,*

C: *In mercy, our prayer.*

A: *A donkey bore the weight of the world's deliverance. Show us the value of humble things, and teach us your kingdom's logic-defying order. God of the journey,*

C: *In mercy, our prayer.*

A: We pray for those in positions of authority and access, and we pray for those who sit in more humble seats, that all may be led to seek you out, and follow more closely. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, our prayer.

A: Be not hidden from our eyes, O Lord, in our time of infirmity. Be present with those we bring before you, (especially...) God of the journey,

C: In mercy, our prayer.

A: Surely you must weep that we still cannot see the things which make for peace in this world. Be patient with our slowness to act and our inability to recognize your grace-filled opportunities to bring about justice. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, our prayer.

A: You kept your dear ones close during your last week, O God. Join us all as one fellowship of witnesses to your faithfulness, both living and departed. God of the journey,

C: In mercy, our prayer.

A: Confident that you walk alongside us in our need, we lift to you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, through Jesus Christ our savior.

C: Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY by Jubilant Ringers

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" ~/arr. Honore

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

"In the Name of the Lord" ~ Helvering/arr. Holck

***OFFERTORY HYMN "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" No.184**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. God of palms and passion,

C: you lavish your abundance upon us, like the woman with the alabaster jar. In gratitude we return these offerings to you, for the sake of our neighbors and the world. Bless them for the good use you have planned for them, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***DIALOGUE** (ELW p. 152)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE** (ELW p. 152)

***SANCTUS (HOLY, HOLY, HOLY)** (ELW p. 153)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you...

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your saints, holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord Jesus, 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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: People of God, behold what you are.

C: Let us become what we receive!

COMMUNION SONG: *"Lamb of God"* (ELW p. 154)

DISTRIBUTION

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

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

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

481—468—335—324

***TABLE BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. Generous God,

C: 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**

P: We wave our palms in joyful anticipation.

C: God's kingdom is near! Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

P: We remember the woman with the alabaster jar,

C: Just as Jesus said we would.

P: We will tell of her lavish anointing of his body.

C: We will hold her up as an example of what it means to love Jesus.

P: We will remember her when we give our gifts of resources, time, and skill.

C: We will remember her when we serve our neighbors in Jesus' name.

P: The Lord has need of our varied gifts.

C: We hand them over to His purpose: clothing, feeding, and comforting all in need.

P: We remember the woman with the alabaster jar,

C: Just as Jesus said we would.

P: We wave our palms in joyful anticipation.

C: God's kingdom is near! Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, †you and remain with you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

No. 346



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring
pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt.
Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912-1993
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***DISMISSAL VERSE** *"God Be with You Til We Meet Again"* No. 536

***Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.***

***DISMISSAL**

***P: Go in peace. Journey with Christ toward his passion.
C: Thanks be to God!***

***POSTLUDE** *"Ride On in Majesty!" ~ Paxton*

It was a joy worshipping God with you today!

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Ride On, Ride On in Majesty – Graham George - ©1969 H. W. Gray

Ride On in Majesty! – David Paxton - ©2002 Lorenz

This Week

Sunday:	Sunday School	10:30AM
	Book Discussion Group	10:30AM
	Sunday School Picnic Meeting	11AM
Wednesday:	Secretary office hours	4:15-6:15PM
Thursday:	Maundy Thursday Service/Communion	7PM
Friday:	Good Friday Service	7PM
Saturday:	Lowhill Food Pantry—Receiving	9-11AM
	Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt	1PM
Sunday:	Easter Dawn Worship/Communion	6:30AM
	Easter Sunday Worship/Communion/Children’s Message	9AM
	Sunday School	10:30AM

Social Ministry is holding a **Spring Craft and Vendor (inside) and Yard Sale (outside)** at the church **on Saturday, April 20th from 9am to 4pm** to benefit Lutheran Disaster Relief. We will also be holding a **Bake Sale**. For more information or to hold tables/spaces call the church.

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to your favorite charities including “Weisenberg Lutheran Church”! Eligible Thrivent Financial members must designate any previous year undirected funds by **March 31, 2024**. For more information, please visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt.

Weisenberg Church Trivia: In what year did we dedicate three octaves of Schulmerich Handbells?

1st Communion Class will be held Sunday, **April 28 from 12-2:30 pm**. All who desire to participate are encouraged to join us. Please see the sign up sheet in the Social Room to provide a headcount. Lunch will be provided. Parents are expected to attend and participate. For questions, please contact Pastor Brandon. Those receiving 1st Communion will be celebrated in worship on Sunday May 5.

Happy 275th Anniversary from the Planning Committee

Thank You to Pastors Brandon & Jennifer Heavner for sharing a wonderful, interesting, and informative presentation on March 17 about their visit to the Holy Land in 2017.

Sunday, April 14 10:30-11:30 am - 2nd Sunday WLTHS

The Weisenberg Lowhill Township Historical Society President will be one of the speakers to talk about this active organization based in Werley's Corner and the important role they play in this area. They are a valuable resource for anyone interested in local history, but also offer a variety of fun events for all ages; children's events, genealogy sessions, craft events, basket raffles, and house various historical items throughout the hotel as well as the many buildings and hosts The Old Time Plow Boys Club shows.

KAUFFMAN'S



CHICKEN DINNER

April 7, 2024 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM Eat-in or Take-out
\$13 (in advance thru March 24)

Menu: ½ Rotisserie Chicken, Baked Potato, Apple Sauce & Roll

Please help make our fundraiser a success!

Proceeds offset the cost of 8th thru 12th Grade Youth Group participation in Philadelphia Project, Gatherings and Retreats.

Make checks payable to "**Weisenberg Church Youth Fundraising**".

Tickets may be purchased by e-mail at weisenberglutheranchurch@gmail.com.

A **PRICELESS BAKE SALE** will be held during the Chicken Dinner on April 7 after worship until 1:00 pm. Please consider supporting the 8th thru 12 graders with a fundraising account that bake goodies.

Trivia Answer: 1997

Main Idea: God is never just one thing. And that means that a life of faith is a life spent dwelling in complexity and overlap.

In Mark, Chapter 11, the disciples are met with some questions (we might even say some resistance) as they untie a colt in a nearby village. They are strangers in this land, and probably come off a bit suspicious. But finally, the bystanders give into their plan, and because they do, the disciples take the colt back to Jesus. As he rides it into Jerusalem, people gather in front of him and behind him, shouting and singing songs of praise.

Then, in Chapter 14, a woman anoints Jesus with nard, an expensive and luxurious substance. She clearly does this to honor Jesus and to show reverence, but she draws criticism from everyone else in the room. They accuse her of being too lavish. Too indulgent. Wasteful, even. They point out that she could have used that nard differently, or that she could have sold it and given the proceeds away to someone in need.

Mashed together the way they are, these two passages create an interesting narrative pattern: skepticism to praise, then praise to skepticism. It seems that, when Jesus is involved, one doesn't come without the other. It seems that, around Jesus, there is an oscillation of realities. And that's really what the Easter story is about: the fact that life brings with it death, and that death brings with it new life.

So why do we celebrate Jesus's arrival into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? If we know how his time there ends—if we know that we won't have praise without skepticism or life without death—then what is the point in rejoicing at all? Why wouldn't we stay reserved and measured and wait for the other shoe to drop?

Maybe we celebrate *because* Jesus is so complex. Maybe we rejoice because our God is never just one thing, and that's amazing. Maybe it's okay to let ourselves go to the emotional and spiritual ends of the spectrum because God meets us there with what our Psalmist calls a steadfast love that endures forever. In the Christian life, we are constantly balancing what has been, what is, and what is to come. We're used to oscillating realities, even if we don't actively realize it during every minute of every day.

It would be boring to worship a God who only existed one way. That God wouldn't reflect reality, and wouldn't accompany us in our respective journeys, either. That God wouldn't take on the body and the life of a human being. That God wouldn't understand us. But Jesus does. In the deepest way possible, Jesus knows what it is like to live as one of us. While he might not be dwelling with us earthside at this point in history, he is dwelling with us in the complex and overlapping spaces that confuse us and push us and move us. And that's good news.

Scripture Summary: Jesus's controversial anointing at Bethany kicks up a huge range of emotional reactions to who Jesus is and what he came to Jerusalem to do.