

Sunday of Passion/Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021
The 115th Anniversary of the faith community of Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

HOSANNA! BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

**All are welcome as we celebrate Jesus' confident entry into
Jerusalem and even the forests all around.**

**Come hear the ancient story that will leave you caught up like the
Roman Centurion. "Truly this man was God's son!" (Mk 15:39)**

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM

EDEN LUTHERAN CHURCH, MUNISING, MI

IN-PERSON UP TO 40 PEOPLE & FACEBOOK LIVE

MASKS ARE REQUIRED

**SOCIAL DISTANCE BETWEEN HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE MAINTAINED.
IF YOU ARE ILL OR HAVE HAD POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO COVID-19,
PLEASE WORSHIP FROM HOME.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY.
WATCH FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE FOR LINKS & UPDATES.**

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death

will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

Processional Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

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.

Blessing of the Palms

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Bless these parade palms, O God of Celebration.

May they remind us of the simple joys of living.

May we remember the excitement that comes with following Christ.

Bless these protest palms, O God of Justice.

May they remind us that Empire is not a thing of the past.

May they make us bold and brave to stand up against injustice.

Bless these funeral palms, O God of Comfort.

May they remind us of the road that lies ahead.

May they encourage us in times of grief and pain.

We give you thanks for the parade, the protest, the processional.

Guide our steps through this holiest of weeks

as we cry out together "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!" **Amen.**

~ written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.

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

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

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.**

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The 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.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I 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.

⁷The 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;

⁸he 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.

Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (*Ps. 31:5*)

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;**
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.

¹¹I 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.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;**
I am as useless as a | broken pot. R

¹³For 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.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.**
I have said, “You | are my God.

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

¹⁶**Let your face shine up- | on your servant;**
save me in your | steadfast love.” R

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name

that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and 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.

The Passion, according to St. Mark.

A dramatic reading for hearing and personal reflection

The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.

B: Bruce Dausey, PA: Pastor Ann, S: Sarah Paradise, Drums: Candace Dennis

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know

your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change (*especially*), grant relief from natural disasters (*especially*), and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer (*especially*); grant respite and renewal. Hear us, O God.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Peace (In ASL)

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering Prayer

Oh God, we come before you humbly and happily with first fruits of our time, our bodies and our treasures. Give us grace to set a good example to all among whom we

Your mercy is great.

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

live, to be just and true in all our dealings, to be strict and conscientious in the discharge of every duty; pure and temperate in all enjoyment, gracious and generous and courteous toward all; so that the mind of Jesus Christ may be formed in us and all may know that we are his disciples; and whose name we pray.

Amen. **Amen.**

Gracious God, we have heard your Word of Life today. While our sin is great, your determination to save has proven greater. Thank you for Jesus who leads us out of the wilderness and into the community declaring, "The kingdom of God has come near." Embolden us with the gift of your Holy Spirit that we may share your love and salvation with all creation, through Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our faithful teacher Jesus gave us the words we need to bring us back to God and our God-given selves when he taught 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.

SENDING

Blessing

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Alek, Lori, Jonnie, Chandler, Larry, Keith, Paxton, Bruce, Mary, Cathy, Marlene, Larry, Jim, Tara, Jeff, Mary, Dave, Jim & Tina, Craig, Stacy, Ray, Pat, Doris, Richard, Mike, Mark, Anne, Christina, Cydney, Jake, Dawn, Billie, Rick and all who are in our prayers today.

Nursing Home: Ruth Elavsky, Jim LeVeque, Babe Strand and Jean Moore

Assisted Living: Norma Seceast

In Service: Airman Craig Oas, Ryan Graves, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Sean Sutherland, Peter Peterson, Brad Salmi, Mathew Moilanen, Mikey Graves and our veterans who have returned to their communities.

General: All who deal with COVID-19 here in our neighborhoods and beyond.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday – March 31st - Wednesday Bible Study – 5:30pm

Thursday – April 1st – Maundy Thursday Online Prayer Service, 7 pm, Facebook Live

**Friday – April 2nd – Good Friday Open Chapel Veneration of the Cross from 11 am – 2 pm, a time for remembering cross Jesus took upon himself, and individual prayer and meditation
– Good Friday Online Prayer Service, 7 pm Call to Worship**

Saturday – April 3rd – EASTER Vigil Service – 8 pm, beginning outside with new fire and concluding inside with Holy Communion

Sunday – April 4th – EASTER Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion – 10:30am – In-person and on Facebook Live

Note: if you would like to receive Holy Communion but were not able to join us for Easter Vigil or Sunday, please contact Pastor Ann, 387-2520

Beginning on April 7th the Munising United Methodist Church will be offering a Community Grief Support Group which will run for four weeks. Please see flyer in Narthex for details. Open to All.