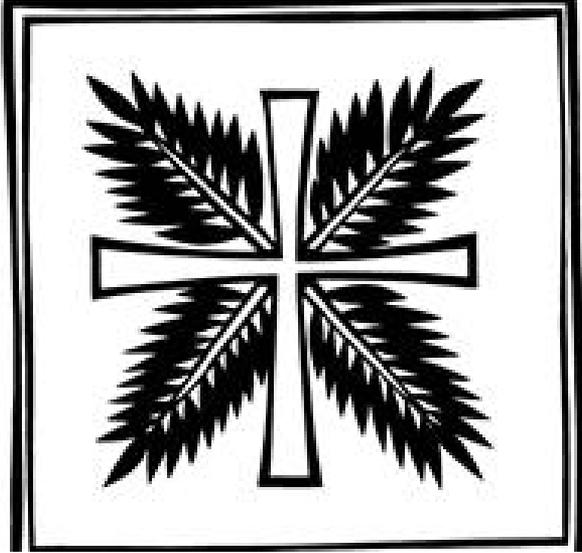


**Palm Sunday**  
**Sunday, April 2nd, 2023**  
**Holy Communion 10 am**



**Introduction**

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.

***ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH***  
***121 N. SPRING STREET, MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057***  
***Sunday Worship 10:00am and Wednesday 10:00am***

**THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH**  
**THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE**

St. Peter's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ congregation joining with Reconciling Works.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome and invite all of God's people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or economic status.

**SERVING OUR CHURCH** **April 2nd, 2023**

**Preaching:** Pr. Molly Haggerty

**Readers:** Bennett Williams, Lore-Lee Walak, Don Hossler, and Ann Swartz

**Musicians:** Spirit & Truth

**Actors:**

**Jesus:** John Ponnett

**Mary:** Stephanie Ponnett

**Martha:** Alex Mabee

**Disciples:** Avery Heckman, Wren Heckman, Ruby Mabee, Leo Denardo, Violetta Denardo, Saoirse Denardo, and Brookelynn May

**Peter:** Andy Wren

**Pilate:** Art Wiand

**Soldiers:** Ray Thompson and Kate Haggerty

**High Priest:** Pr. Molly Haggerty

**Opening the Church in April:** Mary Lingle

*Masks are optional.*

*We ask that if you are not feeling well you worship from home via Facebook Live or listen to the service on WMSS 91.1FM.*

*We give thanks for your patience during this continued Covid season in your continued care for the health and safety of all.*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**PRELUDE: Holy is the Lord**

### **GATHERING**

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

### **GREETING AND RESPONSE**

The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **WORD**

#### **Mark 11:1-13 Jesus rides into Jerusalem**

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and 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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

<sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup>Then 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.

<sup>12</sup>On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was

hungry. <sup>13</sup>Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reader: ...then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting:

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

**GATHERING HYMN: All Glory, Laud and Honor ELW 344** *Children are invited to be a part of the processional. They will wave palms and follow Jesus.*

**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.**

Jesus Christ, you were the stone we rejected,

**Yet you have become our Cornerstone.**

The one we look to as the best example of God's Love;

**The one we exalt above all others.**

We are spreading our cloaks out on the path

**Laying palm branches at your feet.**

We offer every good thing we have:

**Every talent**  
Every blessing  
**Every moment**  
Every word and thought.  
**Every thing of value that we claim.**



We lay at the feet of the King who comes  
**In humility, in peace, and in Divine Love.**

Help us to remain in your steadfast love -  
**Rooted in gratitude and grounded in your presence;**  
To stay - no matter what the crowds around us do-  
**Steeped in compassion and centered in mercy.**

Hosanna to the Son of David!  
**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.**

### **WORD**

#### **Mark 14:1-2 The priests scheming**

<sup>1</sup>It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; <sup>2</sup>for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

#### **SONG: Go to Dark Gethsemane ELW 347 v1**

#### **Mark 14:2-9 Jesus Anointed**

<sup>2</sup>for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

<sup>3</sup>While 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. <sup>4</sup>But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? <sup>5</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for more than

three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup>But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>7</sup>For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. <sup>9</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

### **SONG: Go to Dark Gethsemane ELW 347 v2**

#### **Mark 14: 10-11 Judas betrays Jesus**

<sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. <sup>11</sup>When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

### **SONG: Go to Dark Gethsemane ELW 347 v3**

#### **Mark 14:12-25 Last Supper**

<sup>12</sup>On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>13</sup>So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, <sup>14</sup>and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." <sup>16</sup>So the disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>17</sup>When it was evening, he came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup>And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with

me." <sup>19</sup>They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" <sup>20</sup>He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. <sup>21</sup>For the Son of God goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of God is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

<sup>22</sup>While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. <sup>24</sup>He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup>Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

## **PREFACE**

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.**

## **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**

The table has been prepared. All are welcome. Come and dine.

*All are invited to share in communion. It is Christ's table and all are welcome. The Usbers will bring you forward. The Pastor will give you the bread and the communion assistant will have a tray of wine. Please take one cup and drink it. An Acolyte will collect the empty cup. You can go to the rail for a silent prayer or return to your seat.*

## **COMMUNION SONGS**

**There in God's Garden ELW 342**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **Mark 14:53-62 Jesus meets the Sanhedrin**

<sup>53</sup>They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. <sup>54</sup>Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. <sup>56</sup>For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup>Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, <sup>58</sup>We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.' <sup>59</sup>But even on this point their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup>Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" <sup>61</sup>But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" <sup>62</sup>Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of God seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

**Song: Give me Jesus ELW 770 v1**

### **Mark 14:66-72 Peter denies Jesus**

<sup>66</sup>While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. <sup>67</sup>When she saw Peter warming

himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." <sup>68</sup>But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. <sup>69</sup>And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." <sup>70</sup>But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." <sup>71</sup>But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." <sup>72</sup>At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

**Song: Give me Jesus ELW 770 v2**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **Mark 15: 1-11 Jesus goes before Pilate**

<sup>1</sup>As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup>Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. <sup>8</sup>So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. <sup>9</sup>Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

## **Song: Give me Jesus ELW 770 v3**

### **Mark 15: 12- 20 Litany with Pilot and the crowd**

<sup>12</sup>Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup>They shouted back, "Crucify him!" <sup>14</sup>Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. <sup>16</sup>Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Pilate: What do you wish me to do with the man you call King  
of the Jews?

All: **Crucify him!**

Pilate: Why? What evil has he done?

All: **Crucify him!**

Pilate: Release Barabbas?

All: **Barabbas! Barabbas!**

Pilate: I wash my hands of this. Take this man away!

All: **Crucify him!**

## **Song: Give me Jesus ELW 770 v4**

### **Mark 15:21-24 Jesus falls with the cross**

<sup>21</sup>They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup>Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup>And they

offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

**Song: Give me Jesus ELW 770 v5**

**Mark 15:33-41 Jesus is hung on the cross**

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

<sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

<sup>40</sup>There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. <sup>41</sup>These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

**BLESSING**

God's story continues as we enter Holy Week. You are what God has made you to be: Created in Christ 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 life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

*Standing is optional.*

**SENDING SONG: Were You There ELW 353**

**DISMISSAL:**

Go in silence. Be led by the Light in the darkness.  
Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE: The Sound of Silence** *by Simon & Garfunkel*

The Bulletins are dedicated in loving memory of Florence and Walter Stoops by the Stoops family and in loving memory of Jeffry Baumbach by Sharon Beard and family.

The Altar Greens are dedicated in memory of Joseph J. and Audrey G. Bartush by their children and grandchildren.

The Lamp Candle is dedicated in loving memory of Dale Rhen by his family.

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**DEDICATIONS**

If you would like to dedicate altar flowers or the bulletins in memory or honor of someone or an occasion.

Bulletins (\$15), Altar Flowers (\$20), Lamp Candle (\$10)

Dedications sheets are available on the windowsill of the Office.



*Easter Flowers*

Fill out a form by the office to dedicate Spring Flowers! The flowers are \$10.



## **READERS NEEDED!**

If you are able to serve the church by reading the lessons, please sign up by the church office. A copy of the reading can be provided to you in advance by request. Large print is also available. Thank you!

### ***ST. PETER'S NEWS***

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

#### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Daniel Evans (1), Paul Stevick Jr. (6), Amanda Staub (6), Joyce Kiel (7), Joshua Borland (8), Deborah Stehr (9), Tevon Kerr (9), Avery Heckman (9), Noah Borland (9), Violetta Denardo (10), Elizabeth Testa (12), Rebecca Allen (14), Ann Swartz (14), Madalyn Jorich (15), Barbara Dagenhart (20), Larry Lingle Jr. (22), Kathryn Eckert (23), Mary Lingle (27), Phillip Stover (27), Don Hossler (28), Ida Kramer (29), Landon Young (29)

If we have missed your birthday, please let Molly know and we will get you added to our list.

#### **MANADA SERVICE PROJECT**

Please join TOGETHER and St. Peter's for a special service project on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm. We will be partnering with MANADA conservancy at a farm flattening the ground and planting seeds. We will meet at the church and work from 1:30 to 4pm. We will return to the church at 4:30. If you have a metal rake for gardening please bring it. We would love to have as many people sign up as can! Please sign up with Alex.

#### **BAKE SALE ITEMS NEEDED**

Please bring in cookies or bars by Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> (office hours 12:30 – 5 pm ) The TOGETHER Y.O.U.T.H. are having a bake sale to raise money for their STEAM education projects and other program supplies.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

New to our prayer list this month:

Linda Raphael, Josh Thomas, Jim Hurst, Karen Goldstein, Diana Arnold, George Fuoti, Daratha Gilligbauer, Kay Nye, Kiersten Kwiatkowski, Lucinda Sheaffer, Mary Houser, Mim Stum, Mae Stum, Brenda Stum, Barbara Lingle, Mary Ann Deimler, Thelma Thomas, Linda Holmes, Ryhan Lopatic, Glenn and Lenda Evans, and Richard Brandt.

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers:

Karen Ainsley, Fred Harris, Ida Kramer, Anna Raffensburger, Betty Wise, and Tina Polito.

## \*\*SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES\*\*

Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Cleckner, Edgar Lopez, Hunter Magaro, John Pappas, Corbin Stetler, Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

## FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

will be on the 1st Sunday of every month. Non-perishable food items and personal care items are needed. You can bring food donations to the church throughout the week and place in the Food Pantry wagon.

## SEWING CIRCLE

The Sewing Circle needs lightweight blankets and sheets. Please place on the table in the North Narthex. The Sewing Circle meets each Tuesday from 9-noon. For more information see Mary Lingle or Karen Hahn.

## YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Pastor Chad Butz has organized a young adults' group. If you, or someone you know is interested in joining the group, learning more, or getting on the mailing list, email Pastor Chad Butz at: [renewedgracecoop@gmail.com](mailto:renewedgracecoop@gmail.com).

## NEW FACILITY MANAGER

New Facility Manager Hired: Aaron Devoe has been hired as our new facility manager. If you need his assistance or know of something broken, please complete a work request form in the office.

## *Holy Week Schedule*

Palm Sunday- Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am

Lenten Midweek Service- Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am

Seder Meal- Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

Good Friday- Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am & 7pm

Easter Sunday- Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am

