

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 24th, 2024
Holy Communion 10 am



Introduction

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.

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

March 24th, 2024

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth

Readers:

Lore-Lee Walak, & Don Hossler

Actors:

Jesus: John Ponnett

Mary: Stephanie Ponnett

Martha: Alex Mabee

Disciples: Ruby Mabee, Leo, Violetta, & Saoirse DeNardo

Peter: Andy Wren

Pontius Pilate: Art Wiand

Soldiers: Bennett Williams & Jim Walak

High Priest: Pr Molly Haggerty

PRELUDE: Pie Jesu *by Andrew Lloyd Webber*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL MEDITATION: Holy is the Lord *by Chris Tomlin*

WORD

The reader will begin. The congregation is invited to read the bolded lines.

READING: Mark 11:1-11 Jesus rides into Jerusalem

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he 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,

Congregation: "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.

Children are invited to be a part of the processional. They will wave palms and follow Jesus.

GATHERING: All Glory, Laud, and Honor ELW 344 v 1, 2 & 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(read responsively)*

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.

Everything 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

SONG: You are My King/Amazing Love *by the Newsboys*
I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be?
That You, my King would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You, in all I do I honor You

READING: Mark 14:1-2 Chief priests plotting against Jesus
¹It 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; ²for
they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among
the people."

SONG: Jesus, I Will Ponder Now ELW 345 v 1
Jesus, I will ponder now
on your holy passion;
let your Spirit now endow
me for meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
may the image cherish

of your suff'ring, pain, and death,
that I may not perish.

READING: Mark 14: 3-9 Jesus anointed

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."

SONG: There is a Balm in Gilead ELW 614 Refrain & verse 3

Refrain

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

- 3 Don't ever be discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge
he'll ne'er refuse to lend



READING: Mark 14: 10-11 Judas betrays Jesus

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When 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: Jesus is Betrayed by Judas *by Poor Bishop Hooper*

READING: Mark 14:12-25 the Last Supper

¹²On 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?" ¹³So 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, ¹⁴and 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?'" ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." ¹⁶So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁷When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And 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." ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For the Son of Humankind goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Humankind is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

²²While 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." ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly 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."

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

Jesus said “take, this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks Jesus gave it to them and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 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.”

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 Ushers 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

READING: Mark 14: 53-62 Jesus meets the Sanhedrin

⁵³They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁴Peter 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. ⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. ⁵⁶For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, ⁵⁸We 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.' ⁵⁹But even on this point their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" ⁶¹But he was silent and did not

answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" ⁶²Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Humankind seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

SONG: Give Me Jesus verse 1

- 1 **In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus.**

READING: Mark 14: 66-72 Peter denies Jesus

⁶⁶While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." ⁶⁸But 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. ⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰But 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." ⁷¹But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." ⁷²At 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 verse 2

- 2 **Dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
give me Jesus.**

READING: Mark 15: 1-11 Jesus goes before Pilate

¹As 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. ²Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

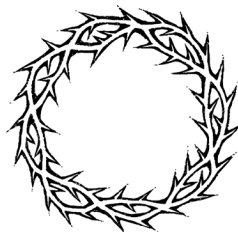
⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them,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

SONG: Give Me Jesus verse 3 & refrain

**3 Just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
give me Jesus.**

Refrain

**Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest,
give me Jesus.**



READING: Mark 15:12-20 Litany with Pilate and the crowd

¹²Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³They shouted back,

Congregation: "Crucify him!"

¹⁴Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more,

Congregation: Crucify him!

Pilate: "Release Barabbas."

Congregation: Barabbas! Barabbas!

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

Congregation: Crucify him!

¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

SONG: How Can it Be *by Lauren Daigle*

READING: Mark 15:21-24 Jesus falls with the cross

²¹They 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. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

SONG: Beneath the Cross of Jesus ELW 338 v 2

Upon the cross of Jesus,

my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.

And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love

and my unworthiness.

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

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At 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?"

³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶And 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." ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now 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!"

⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These 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.**

CLOSING HYMN: Were You There ELW 353

DISMISSAL: Go in silence. Be led by the light in the darkness. **Thanks be to God**

POSTLUDE: Sound of Silence *by Simon & Garfunkel*

The bulletins are dedicated in memory of Bill Darrah for his birthday anniversary by his family.

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St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this place their home.

St. Peter's News

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

New to our prayer list this month: Emily Booth, Ray Cary, Josie Brewster, Thelma Thomas, Doris Arnold, Lucinda Sheaffer, Ben Chappell, and Mary Houser.

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers: Kate Haggerty, Mae Stum, Dorothy Murphy, Karen Ainsley, Ida Kramer, Betty Wise, Stephanie Kastelik, Brenda Stum, Kiersten Kwiatkowski, George Fuoti, Linda Holmes, Regina Heagy, Jim Hurst, Tina Polito, and Richard Brandt.

****SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES****

Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Cleckner, Edgar Lopez, John Pappas, Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Peter's Sunday School program is back! We will meet in the café after church on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays at 11am. We ask parents to join us in the lessons and help the kids grow in their faith journeys.

TOGETHER MENTOR

TOGETHER is looking for male volunteer mentors to come in and help for an hour several days a week. We are asking this person to help with making meals, talking with the youth, and possibly playing games with the kids. The times would be from 3pm to 4pm. If you are interested, please reach out to Alex Mabee at her email amabee@stpetersmiddletown.org or call her at 832-752-6833.

SUMMER CAMP 2024

Summer Camp programs and registrations forms are available for Kirchenwald and Nawakwa for the 2024 season. There are a variety of programs available for a wide range of ages. Please see Sharon for more information and to learn how to get a discount on your registration. Pamphlets are available by the office.

SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE

Meet the Nawakwa or Kirchenwald staff on Sunday, March 17th & Sunday April 14th from 2pm-4:30pm. You will tour the facilities and receive a \$10 coupon for the camp store for each new camper! For more information, visit www.LutheranCamping.org or call 717-677-8211

SPRING GARAGE SALE

TOGETHER, St. Peter's Youth, and Hope Academy are hosting a garage sale fundraiser on April 12th from 5pm-8pm and on April 13th from 9am-3pm. If you have items you would like to donate to the sale or need help transporting your donations, especially clothes, household items, and games, please contact Alex at: AMabee@StPetersMiddletown.org. Donations are accepted now to April 1st!

CELEBRATIONS

If you have a special celebration you'd like to highlight in the bulletin, please email Jen at: JKemper@StPetersMiddletown.org or call the office at: 717-944-4651. Birthdays and anniversaries will be printed monthly, but we would also like to highlight other special events in our congregation or community, such as graduations, academic honors, sports achievements, engagements, or any other notable event you'd like to share.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION APRIL 27th

Join TOGETHER at Hoffer Park on April 27th from 10am-1pm to learn about ways we can protect our planet. We will also be doing fun science experiments, playing games (including a bounce house), enjoying food trucks, and more!

MEALS ON WHEELS

Please consider helping StPeters Middletown deliver meals for 2 to 3 hours per morning 3 to 5 days a week in Royalton and Middletown in June. To learn more about the delivering experience please talk with JoAnn Skovira, Carol Hahn, Barb or Allen Jacobs, Kristie or Aaron Young, Gail or Don Hossler. To sign up for June deliveries please call Gail at 717-944-2250.

COMMUNITY REQUEST

A member of our community has requested the following items: 2 twin mattresses & twin mattress protectors, living room furniture, and a microwave. If you can donate any of these items, please email Jen: JKemper@StPetersMiddletown.org

LAMPa LUTHERAN DAY IN THE CAPITOL

Join the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania on Thursday, May 9th for a day of learning, inspirations, advocacy, and celebration for their 45th anniversary. We will also celebrate the ELCA World Hunger's 50th anniversary.

To register or learn more: lutheranadvocacypa.org

HOPE ACADEMY NEW EXPLORERS

Hope Academy PA Preschool at St. Peter's Middletown is enrolling new explorers for the '24/'25 school year and we need YOUR help to spread the word! Please share with anyone you know who has preschool aged children or works with families. Thanks to many generous donors, we have a scholarship program and are anxious to help as many children as possible have a quality preschool education! Email jen@t4hope.org for more information and follow us on Facebook at Hope Academy PA!

LUNCH & LEARN

Wed March 27: Finances in the Future (Kane High)

Wed April 3: Dying with Dignity (Gerry Leonard)

Wed April 10: Celebration & Pizza party

Please sign up on the table and see Pastor Molly with questions!

DESCENDANTS THE MUSICAL

Our very own Avery Heckman is starring in the lead role (Mal) of Elizabethtown Area Middle School's production of *the Descendants: the musical* on Friday, April 5th at 7pm & Saturday, April 6th at 2pm & 7pm in the EAHS auditorium. Audiences will encounter a host of classic Disney characters from Maleficent to Beauty and the Beast. Through show-stopping numbers such as "Ways to Be Wicked," "Good Is the New Bad," and "Did I Mention," the musical celebrates the power of change, the importance of trust and honesty, and the goodness that lives within all of us.

Be sure to tell Avery to "break a leg" or cheer her on from the audience! Tickets for this production are on sale now. They can be purchased online at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/80649> or at the door one hour before performances. The price is a flat \$5, and cash and checks are only accepted at the door. Questions? Email Amy: AHossler77@yahoo.com

EAHS: 600 E High st. Elizabethtown, PA 17022

CLASS ACT FT. RITA

You are invited to the Spring Fling at Seven Sorrows Church (360 E. Water St. Middletown, PA 17057) on May 18th at 7pm. Enjoy 3 sets of music & dancing from 8pm-11pm performed live by Class Act featuring Rita. Jeremy and Bennett of our own Spirit & Truth band will be playing and singing! Tickets are \$30 per person and should be purchased in advance. Your ticket includes food, beer, wine, soda, and water. You may also BYOB. **To learn more or to reserve your tickets, contact Darlene: 717-991-4563 or Jan: 717-944-2340.**

SIGN UP TO READ

Please consider signing up to read in church! The sign-up sheet is by the front office.

KENTLAND OPEN HOUSE

Join Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 21st from 2pm-4pm for an open house, tour, & rededication of the newly renovated Kentland retreat center. Address: 1022 E. Winding Hill rd. Mechanicsburg. Questions? Call: 717-737-0439

