

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

March 24, 2024

Palm/Passion Sunday



Preparation: “The symbol of Christianity is an instrument of death. It suggests, at the very least, hope.” Frederick Buechner in *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Albert Travis

[Ellacombe]

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Minute for Mission

UKirk Trivia Night

Kent Workman

* **Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 118:20-29)

Will Pearson

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; her steadfast love endures forever!

All: May the gate of the Lord be open so the righteous may enter through it.

One: God has answered us and become our salvation,
the stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

All: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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

All: Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

One: You are my God and I will give thanks to you and extol you!

All: O give thanks to the Lord for God is good, God's steadfast love endures forever!

First Reading: Luke 19:28-40

The Triumphal Entry

Rebecca Mattern

* **Hymn #196**

All Glory Laud and Honor, vs. 1-4

[Valet Will Ich Dir Geben]

Second Reading: Luke 22:7-20

The Last Supper

Lucas Meland

Hymn #527

Eat This Bread (2x)

Third Reading: Luke 22:24-27

Who is the Greatest?

Matt Pearson, Liturgist

Call to Confession: Hymn #218

Ah Holy Jesus, vs. 1-2

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

All: Gracious and loving God, through Jesus you taught us how to serve, and yet too often we focus on trying to be the greatest. You promise abundance and still we live in scarcity. We claim to follow you, and yet too often neglect to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the poor, the outcast. We confess we turn away from the ugliness of the cross, for fear of the cost of following you. We say we love you and want to serve you, and yet we deny you as we choose other priorities. Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to you, again and again, as we strive to be your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving, grace beyond our ability to earn it. Through the waters of baptism our sins are washed away.

All: Therefore we will live as grateful and forgiven people! Thanks be to God!

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

* Act of Praise #218

Ah Holy Jesus vs. 4-5

The Word

Fourth Reading: Luke 22:39-46

Jesus prays in the garden

Will Pearson

Hymn #226

There in God's Garden, vs. 1, 2, 4

Fifth Reading: Luke 22:47-53

Jesus is arrested

Matt Pearson

***Responsive Reading:** Luke 22:54-62

Peter denies Jesus

Rebecca Mattern

One: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

Choir: "This man also was with him."

All: But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

Choir: A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them."

All: But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

Choir: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

All: But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"

One: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times."

All: And he went out and wept bitterly.

(Minute of Reflection)

***Responsive Reading:** Luke 22:66-23:3, 13-24 Pilate condemns Jesus

One: When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, “If you are the Messiah, tell us.”

All: **He replied, “If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”**

One: All of them asked, “Are you, then, the Son of God?”

All: **He said to them, “You say that I am.”**

One: Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!” Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.” Then Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

All: **He answered, “You say so.”**

One: Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

All: **Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)**

One: Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again;

All: **but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!”**

One: A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.”

All: **But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed.**

One: So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Hymn #209

My Song is Love Unknown, vs. 1, 3, 5

Sixth Reading: Luke 23:33-49

Jesus is Crucified

Lucas Meland

Hymn #228

Were You There

Matt Pearson, soloist vs. 1

Congregation vs. 2

Matt Pearson, soloist vs. 3

Congregation vs. 5

Seventh Reading: Luke 23:50-54

Jesus is Buried

Rebecca Mattern

Hymn #230

Joyful is the Dark, vs. 1, 2, 4

Time of Silent Reflection

Responding to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith

Apostle's Creed

Pastor Lisa Schrott

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Wondrous Love

arr. Paul Christiansen

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
That caused the Lord of life to bear the heavy cross,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
That Christ should lay aside His crown for my soul.
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Matt Pearson, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

in unison

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 debts, as we forgive

our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sent Out As a People of God

Eighth Reading: Luke 23:55-56	The women prepare	Rebecca Mattern
* Hymn #227	<i>Jesus Remember Me</i> (3x)	
* Benediction		Rebecca Mattern
Postlude	<i>All Glory, Laud and Honor</i>	Kristina Langlois
* <i>Please rise in body or spirit</i>		

Ushers: Brett & Lynne Cone, Joel & Deb Major

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Mickey Martin for supplying our snacks and to Jill & Tom Schaberg and Nancy Kanistanoux for taking care of the coffee.

Palm Crosses were made by the PCO youth in praise and thanksgiving to God.

Adult Education: Today there are opportunities to intentionally draw closer to God using a variety of spiritual practices. Prayer stations are set up based on the Scripture for Holy week, with opportunities to reflect and respond with music in the Temple Room, art in the Art Room, labyrinths (body) in the Board Room, and written word in the Kehde Chapel. Instructions are provided in each area. You are invited and encouraged to use a station for at least 30 minutes. You are welcome to return to Fellowship Hall if you would like to process your experience with others. The stations will remain available while the office is open during Holy Week and an hour before and after Maundy Thursday service.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28 at PCO in the Sanctuary and online.

Good Friday Guided Labyrinth Meditation - Noon -1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29 at PCO Labyrinth

Community Good Friday Service – 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29 at Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos

Easter Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 31 at PCO in the Sanctuary and online, to be followed by an Easter Brunch. All are welcome!

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Westin Sorrel, Chancel Choir Director
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