



ALTERED

by the spirit

March 24, 2024

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday / Victory Altered Sunday, March 24, 2024

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Acclamation

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

A: Hosanna in the highest!

*Gospel of the Palms

*Blessing of the Palms

*Processional Response

L: Let us go forth in peace

A: in the name of Christ. Amen!

*Processional Hymn (see page 3)

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

*Prayer of the Day

Intergenerational Choir

"Wave Your Branches"

S. Knarr

Word

Palm Sunday Litany (see page 4)

Passion Reading Pt. 1

Mark 14:1-72

Sanctuary Choir

"Miserere, Domine"

N. Palmer

Passion Reading Pt. 2

Mark 15:1-47

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 342

"There in God's Garden"

*Prayers of Intercession

A: your mercy is great.

*Peace

Meal

Offering Solo

"Du bist die Ruh"

F. Schubert

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| *Offering Hymn 188 | <i>“Create in Me a Clean Heart”</i> | |
| *Offering Prayer | | |
| *Great Thanksgiving | | p. 107 |
| *Holy, Holy, Holy | | p. 108 |
| *Thanksgiving at the Table IV | | p. 112 |
| *Lord’s Prayer (<i>Our Father in heaven...</i>) | | p. 112 |
| Lamb of God | | p. 112 |
| Communion Hymns 463, 343, 338 | | |
| Table Blessing | | |
| Prayer after Communion | | |
| Sending | | |
| General Announcements | | |
| *Blessing | | |
| *Hymn 335 | <i>“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”</i> | |
| *Dismissal | | A: Thanks be to God. |
| Postlude | <i>“Herzliebster Jesu”</i> | A. Leupold |

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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.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One. Refrain

2 The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply. Refrain

3 The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present. Refrain

4 To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise. Refrain

5 Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King. Refrain

Palm Sunday Litany

L: In Jerusalem,

Simeon and Anna prophesied over Jesus, the infant.

Mary accepted their words into her heart, and Jesus grew in strength and spirit.

**A: O Emmanuel, the long-expected king,
hasten to us. We need you here.**

L: In Jerusalem,

the temple scholars were astonished by Jesus, the boy.

He accepted their teachings into his mind
and grew in knowledge and wisdom.

**A: O Child of Joseph and Mary, the unexpected teacher,
hasten to us. We need you here.**

L: Outside Jerusalem,

the jubilant crowd cheered for Jesus, the man.

They accepted him as he rode on a donkey,
but the fears of the powerful grew.

**A: O Lamb of God, gentle and meek,
hasten to us. We need you here.**

L: The words of the crowd echoed on the city walls:

“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

A: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

L: Save us, Emmanuel!

A: We need you here.

L: Save us, Child of Joseph and Mary!

A: We need you here.

L: Save us, Lamb of God!

A: We need you here.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Assisting Minister: Linda McLellan

Communion Servers: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson and Grace Schuster

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Dylan Siebert, John Waterfield.

Vocal Soloist: Nicole Hamilton

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Ron Roeder (519-895-6833)

Church Fire Plan For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety.

Worship Notes

In our prayers Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Marie, Grace, Maureen and John.

Notes on today's service: Our service will begin in the Lower Level and move into the Sanctuary during the Processional Hymn. Please bring your Guides to Worship with you downstairs.

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving and forgiving us. For the wine, there is a common cup station and a pouring chalice station (please take an empty small glass). There is also a small tray of pre-poured grape juice glasses. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. If you would (also) like to receive a blessing, please approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your chest. If you'd like to receive Communion in your pew, the pastor will come to you.

General Announcements

Easter Vigil Service: Saturday March 30th at 8 p.m. at St. Matthews, Kitchener



Come for this special multi-part service that bridges the gap between Good Friday and Easter Morning!

Each section will be in a different part of the building as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage to the great proclamation of the resurrection of Christ.

Highlights will include the lighting of the Easter Fire, handheld candles, a baptism, and a reflection on Old Testament stories foreshadowing the salvation that is to come.

Sonja Schweter (seminary placement student at St. Luke's) will be preaching and a variety of songs from old to new

will be sung. The roughly two-hour-long service is jointly organized between St. Matthews, Kitchener, St. Luke's Kitchener and St. Paul's Bridgeport.

Use the Office Entrance (off the parking lot) to enter.

"Like the children of Israel who watched and waited through the night for the Lord of the Exodus, we too come together this night to watch and wait for the Lord of the Resurrection. We come, as Christians have come since the first century, to keep vigil and to prepare ourselves for the arrival of the one who is our host and guest at the Easter feast to come."

Alpha Course coming to St. Matthews!

Sharing your faith can be scary... but Alpha creates a space where you can simply invite a friend to explore their questions over some food, a video talk, and small group discussion. The rest is up to God.

Who is this for? Non-regular churchgoers (e.g. attend church 0-3 times a year), people interested in what Jesus and faith is about. But if you're an active member you can attend if you bring a friend!



When: On Sundays 12-2 p.m., starting April 7th at 560 Queen Street South, Kitchener
Plus a **Retreat** at Crieff Hills Centre in Puslinch: Sat. June 8th 10 am - 4 pm. Lunch provided. No cost.

Register/ more information: Talk to Pastor Sebastian or pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com or 519-742-0462 x 2

All members are asked to prayerfully consider who they might invite to join the Alpha Course this Spring!

Important Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Offering plates will be passed out today during the Offering solo.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** after worship in the Lower Level Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.
- **Lower Level Sanctuary Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462 stmattskw.com

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|-------------------------------|--------|--|
| Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer | Ext. 3 | pastorcarey@stmattskw.com |
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Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24 at 9:30 am

Celebrate with us Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with palm branches and song in an Intergenerational Service.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28

Soup Supper at 5:00 pm, Service at 7:00 pm

Gather to commemorate the Last Supper and the Footwashing.



Good Friday

Friday, March 29 at 9:30 am

Join us to observe the most solemn day of the church year; the day Jesus was crucified.



Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 30 at 8:00 pm

Come join us for the most important service of the entire year...celebrated for the first time in a long time here at St. Matthews!



Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31 at 9:30 am

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy!

Space for your notes on today's service, for your personal reflection.



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Get the newsletter and email updates on upcoming church events, announcements, reminders and service changes.

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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