

April 13, 2025

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

April 13, 2025
9:30 AM - Palm Sunday
Ministers: The People of HTLC
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

If you're looking for a community that seeks to follow God's star, there is a place for you here. Trust that the mystery of God has brought you this far on your journey and will guide your future steps. All of who you are is welcome here.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and our website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children's Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

SINGING BOWL

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed, what new life and promise await us.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: On this day of palms and celebration, Jesus continues his journey with God.

All: We will go with him, for a while, until he turns towards Calvary.

P: From the top of Olive Mountain, Jesus prepares to travel through the valley of heartache and loss.

All: We will follow Jesus, for a while, cradling hope in our hearts.

P: In the streets of Jerusalem, Jesus hears the cries of those who adore him.

All: We will shout Jesus' name, for a while, until we cry out, "Crucify him!"

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

L: Blessed is he who comes in the name of our God.

All: Hosanna to the Son of David.

L: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. Awaken us, Loving God, to the hope this holy day holds for us. Call us forth from our weary routines and meager faith. Stretch us beyond our limited understanding and cramped enthusiasm.

All: Free us to sing "Hosanna" and wave branches and spread your love among those who have not experienced its power. Come to us, Gracious God, that we may fully experience your presence among us. Amen.



PROCESSION LITANY

L: We are gathered here like those who watched.

All: To catch a glimpse of the Messiah.

L: As we wait here for the Savior to come, let us not be disappointed when God's Chosen One appears.

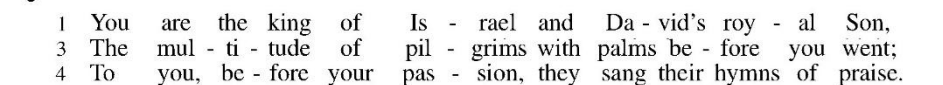
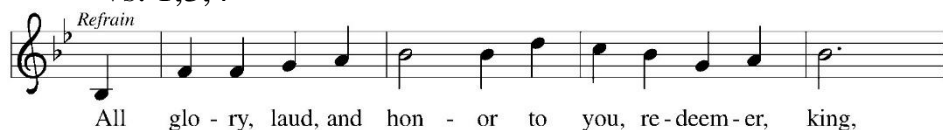
All: Give us courage to follow where Jesus leads us.

L: Let us go forth in peace.

All: In the name of our Redeemer.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

vs. 1,3,4



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.

L: Blessed is he who comes in the name of our God.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

GREETING

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

A PALM SUNDAY PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Source of our hope and promise, we would rather sing hosannas with a cheering crowd,

All: than stand up for our convictions in the face of an angry mob;

P: we would rather dine at your table with those we call friends,

All: than admit we are no different from those we consider enemies;

P: we would rather imagine our faithfulness in the face of opposition and temptation,

All: than admit that we too might betray you with a kiss.

P: Forgive the fickleness of our devotion,

All: and strengthen our resolve to follow Christ each and every day, even to the cross. Amen.

Silence for Reflection

P: God has opened the gates of righteousness

All: and Christ has beckoned us to walk through.

P: Sing with the children; throw your clothes upon the road,

All: for the one who comes in the name of our God offers us salvation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Eternal One, as we enter Holy Week and celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem,

All: may we laugh with the children and shout our hosannas with the crowd.

L: But never let us forget where this week ends. For the one who emptied himself for our sake,

All: took the form of a servant and was betrayed and denied by his disciples and closest friends.

L: May we sing in our hearts this day,

All: but may our song be mixed with sorrow and regret, for such is the life of followers in every age. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung twice)



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the Eleventh Chapter.

All: Glory to You, O God.

GOSPEL: *Mark 11:1-11*

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples with this instruction: "Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing that?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.'"

So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, "What do you mean by untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!

Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

P: The Gospel of our Redeemer.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”



1. "Ho san - na, loud ho - san - na," The lit - tle chil-dren sang;
2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,



Thro' pil-lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang;
 The vic - tor palm branch wa - ving And chan-ting clear and loud;
 For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n, our King;



To Je - sus, who had blessed them Close fold - ed to His breast,
 The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice,



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim-plest and the best.
 Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid-ding wait.
 And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

Be Seated

THE EYES OF FAITH

by Steve Moore and David T. Clydesdale

Performed by the HTLC Choir



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: As God has blessed us, remember that our blessings come so that we might bless others.

All: Let us share this promise as we open our hearts and share our abundance with a world in need of God's blessings.

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, the food of
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them

life, the bread and wine, as sym-bols of our dai - ly
hum - bly from your hand. These gifts of yours for high - er

work, ac - cord - ing to your grand de - sign.
use we of - fer up as you com - mand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Gifts; clothes strewn in his path; a carpet of palm branches; tokens of loyalty, tokens of enthusiasm.

All: These gifts; tokens of thanksgiving, tokens of commitment, instruments of compassion and service.

L: As you blessed your Holy One, O God, bless these gifts now, for they are given in remembrance of Jesus.

All: Amen.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

All: Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

L: Eternal God, your love is with us as we celebrate the coming of Jesus into Jerusalem:

All: crowds cheering, palms waving, the disciples enthusiastic.

L: Your love stays with us as we slink away afraid,

All: when the cheering is silenced, when the palms are trampled and when the sound of nailing is heard.

L: Your love becomes a personal love, a love for our faith community,

All: as bread is broken, wine is poured out, and Jesus is graciously remembered. On this special day, fill us with your love!

P: It is good to come together to proclaim the news of God in Christ, for he identifies with us as his body, the bread of life scattered throughout the world, and gathered together in the mystery of God's unending grace.

All: Make us your whole body, together in love, this day.

P: For on the night of his betrayal Jesus took the bread of the Exodus, and after he blessed it, he broke it symbolizing the brokenness of his body.

All: Make us your whole body, together in love, this day.

P: Jesus gave his friends the bread saying: "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

All: We remember and acknowledge your presence in our lives and in this mystery.

P: Jesus also took the cup of wine, giving it to them with the words: "Take this and drink from it. It is my blood, the blood of a new agreement, shed for your forgiveness. Do this in remembrance of me."

All: We remember and acknowledge your presence in our lives and in this mystery.

P: Come Holy Spirit, bless all we do with each other as we live within the mystery of Christ's body and blood.

All: For it is through him, and with him and in him that we find our way to you, O God, in the joy of your spirit. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*P: All who are hungry, come and eat the bread of life.
All who are thirsty, come and drink the cup of salvation.*

All: We are all welcomed at Christ's table.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to the Lord's Table
after the Lamb of God is sung.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Holy Communion is open to all.

Wine is red, grape juice is gold, water is in the center.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

For communion at the altar rail:

When directed by the ushers, you may come up the center aisle to the altar rail, stand or kneel, and hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into. Eat. Then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (gold), or water (clear, center) from the assistant. Drink. Then place your empty cup in the tray that follows. Rise and return to your seat via the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMN: “Go to Dark Gethsemane”



- 1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re-deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

COMMUNION HYMN: “Stay Here”



Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come.



Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray.

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: On the back of a donkey,

All: Jesus came to bless us.

P: With a love that did not count the cost,

All: Jesus came to heal us.

P: From hopelessness and despair,

All: Jesus came to free us.

P: With the power of the Holy Spirit,

All: Jesus came to save us.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Compassionate God,

All: you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

L: Sustain us this Holy Week:

All: may our fasting be hunger for justice;

L: our alms, a making of peace;

All: and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts,

L: through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME: *"Stepping Stones through Lent"*

– Carmen Blair

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

BENEDICTION

P: Pilate washed his hands of him. Peter denied that he ever knew him.

All: All the disciples deserted him.

P: Judas ended his own life after betraying him. Joseph of Arimathea provided a grave for him.

All: Mary and the women stood watch over him.

P: The centurion proclaimed him to be the Son of God.

All: The soldiers secured his grave with a stone.

P: Jesus said to his disciples, "I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

All: Let us go forth into this Holy Week knowing that no matter who we are, or what we have done, Jesus Christ goes ahead of us to prepare the way.

SENDING HYMN: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" vs. 1,3



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up-on the way,
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

SENDING

L: Go in peace, and experience all of Holy Week.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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