



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Saturday, March 23 at 5:00 pm: Amherst Lutheran Campus Sunday, March 24 at 10:00 am: Eggertsville Campus Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church March 23-24, 2024

Palm Weekend



#### "Triumph and Tragedy"

### The Passion of Jesus based on Luke's Gospel

 Players: Narrator, Pharisee, Criminal #1, Peter, Jesus, Pilate, Criminal #2, People, Judas, Servant Girl, Centurion
 (The congregation reads the portions labeled **People** in **bold** print)

#### Order of Service

#### Prelude

#### "The Entry into Jerusalem"

**Narrator:** When Jesus drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent ahead two of his disciples, telling them to go into the village. There they would find a colt tied up, on which no one had sat. They were to untie it and bring it to Jesus. If anyone asked them why they were untying it, they were to tell them that the Lord had need of it. So those who were sent, went away and found the colt as Jesus had told them. As they were untying it, its owners asked,

#### People: Why are you untying the colt?

**Narrator:** The disciples related to them that the Lord needed it. So they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt, they set Jesus upon it. And as they rode along, they spread their garments on the road and others cut branches and spread them out before him. As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and to praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, singing: All Glory, Laud and Honor



All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

**Pharisee:** Teacher, rebuke your disciples! They're calling you the Christ. Tell them to shut up because they know not of what they speak!

Jesus: I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones themselves would cry out.

Narrator: And when Jesus drew near and saw the city, he wept over it saying,

**Jesus:** Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the day will come upon you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone unturned; because you did not recognize God's visitation.

#### "The Last Supper"

**Narrator:** Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officer of the temple police about how he might betray Jesus to them. They offered him money. Judas consented and started to look for an opportunity when no crowd was present. Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John saying,

Jesus: Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.

#### People: Lord, where do you want us to make preparations?

**Jesus:** Listen. When you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations there for us.

**Narrator:** And they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

Jesus: I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Narrator: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

**Jesus:** Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

**Narrator:** Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them saying,

Jesus: This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Narrator: Come, the feast is offered!

People: Thank you for this meal Father in Heaven; Holy is your name. We await your kingdom coming and your will being done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

Narrator: Today, God gives you this bread and forgives your trespasses.

People: Better than we forgive the sins of others? Thank you Lord! Lead us away from temptations and deliver us. Deliver us!

(Pastor Steve Biegner will provide directions for Communion)



Narrator: When they sang the hymn and finished the meal, Jesus went on to say:

**Jesus:** But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed.

People: Who, Lord? Who Lord is to betray you? Is it I? Is it I?

Judas: Is it I, Master?

Jesus: You have said so my son.

Narrator: Simon Peter was furious over such talk.

**Peter:** But not I Lord!! Though they all might fall away from you...I will never leave you!

**Jesus:** Peter, truly I say this to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Peter: No Lord! Even if I must die with you, I will never deny you.

People: And so said Peter to all the disciples, over and over again.

#### "Gethsemane"

#### Hymn: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (WOV #775) (solo)

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

**Narrator:** And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place he said to them,

Jesus: Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

#### People: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us, deliver us!

**Narrator:** And Jesus withdrew from them about a stone's throw, kneeling down, he prayed,

#### Hymn: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (WOV #775) (solo)

Lord, listen to your children praying Lord, send your spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

**Jesus:** Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.

# People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done. Your will be done.

**Narrator:** And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

**Jesus:** Why do you sleep? Get up and pray that you may not come to the time of trial.

# People: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Deliver us from all evil.

**Narrator:** While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, and Jesus said,

Jesus: Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?

Hymn: "Ah, Holy Jesus" (LBW #123)

Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.
Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

Narrator: When those who were around saw what was coming, they asked Jesus,

#### People: Lord, should we strike with the sword?

**Narrator:** Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

Jesus: No more of this, I say!

#### People: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Jesus:** Have you come out with swords and clubs like bandits? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Narrator: And they seized him ....

### "The Judgment"

**Narrator:** 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 made 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,

Servant Girl: This man was also with him.

Peter: I deny that, woman! I do not know him.

Narrator: A little later upon seeing him, someone said,

#### People (men only): You are also one of them!

Peter: Man, I am not!

Narrator: An hour later someone else insisted,

People (women only): Surely this man was with him; for he is a Galilean.

Peter: I do not know what you are saying!

**Narrator:** At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned to Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord and how, before the cock crowed, he would deny the Lord three times. And Peter went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

#### People: Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?

**Narrator:** They kept heaping many other insults on him. When the day came, the assembly of elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council, demanding that he tell them if he was the Messiah.

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

#### People: Does that mean that you are the Son of God?

Jesus: You say that I am.

People (Shouting): Blasphemy! What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips. Blasphemy!

## "Jesus before Pilate"

**Narrator:** Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

# People: 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.

Narrator: Pilate then asked him,

Pilate: Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

Pilate: I find no basis for an accusation against this man.

People: But Pilate, he stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.

**Narrator:** When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. However, Herod and his soldiers also mocked Jesus, placed an elegant robe on him and sent him back to Pilate.

**Pilate:** This man has come back to me from Herod. You brought him to me as one perverting the people; and after examining him, behold, I did not find him guilty of any of the charges against him. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him!

Narrator: Then they all shouted together,

#### People (shouting): Away with this man! Away! Away! Release Barabbas to us!

**Narrator:** Barabbas was a man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder. Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again,

#### People (shouting): Crucify him! Crucify him!

Pilate: Why? What evil has he done to you? I've found no crime deserving death.

### People (shouting): Crucify him! Crucify him!

**Narrator:** They were urgent, demanding that Jesus should be crucified, and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the murderer, and handed Jesus over as they wished.



#### "Crucifixion"

People (men only): As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

People (women only): And there followed him a great multitude, among whom were women, beating their breasts and wailing for him. And Jesus said to us,

**Jesus:** Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it dries?

**Narrator:** Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Jesus: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!

People (women only): Forgive us our trespasses.

People (men only): And they cast lots to divide his garments.

People (women only): Forgive us our trespasses.

Narrator: And the people stood by watching. But the rulers scoffed at him saying,

People (women only): He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God!

People (men only): Forgive us our trespasses.

**Narrator:** The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar. There was an inscription over him that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

### Hymn: "Were You There?" (ELW #353) (solo)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh...., sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

#### People (men only): Forgive us our trespasses. Forgive us, O Lord, our trespasses.

Narrator: One of the criminals who was hanging there with him railed at him,

Criminal #1: Are you not the Christ?! Save yourself and us!

**Criminal #2:** You fool, do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence, and we justly? But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

People: Forgive us our trespasses, Lord. Deliver us from evil. Yours is the kingdom.

Narrator: And Jesus said to him .....

People: And yours is the power.

Jesus: Truly, truly, I say to you....

People: And yours is the glory.

Jesus: Today you will be with me in Paradise.

#### People: Forever and ever. Amen!

**Narrator:** It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

Jesus: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

#### Hymn: "Were You There?" (ELW #353) (solo)

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh...., sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

**Narrator:** And having said this he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he said,

Centurion: Certainly, this man was innocent.

People: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

#### "Burial"

Hymn: "Were You There?" (ELW #353)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh...., sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? **Narrator:** Now there was a man named Joseph from the town of Arimathea, a righteous man, one looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation and the Sabbath was beginning.

# People (women only): The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointment.

Narrator: On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

## Prayers of the Church

A Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

#### C Your mercy is great.

A Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Hear us, O God.

### C Your mercy is great.

A Establish peace and justice among the nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God.

### C Your mercy is great.

- A Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.

- A Give energy and joy to our pastors, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

Stripping of the Altar (As Psalm 22 is read, the altar will be stripped in preparation for Good Friday.)

#### Reflection: Pastor Steve Biegner

#### Sharing of God's Peace

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

#### Benediction:

- P Go from here knowing you are saved by God's Grace; that you are loved by Jesus, who went all the way to the cross for you; that you are carried by the Holy Spirit, who reminds us that Good Friday is not the end of the story. Go rejoicing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and all God's people said:
- C Amen!

## Closing Hymn: LBW 377 (on the following page)

#### Dismissal

- P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



# Lift High the Cross



5 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain* 

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: March 23-31, 2024

\*All events will take place at the Eggertsville Campus unless otherwise noted\*

Sunday:	Palm Weekend				
-	8:50-9:30 am: No Adult Forum–Will restart April 7				
	9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at ALC				
	10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV				
	10:00 am: Worship, Communion, and Sunday School				
	11:00 am: New Missionary Orientation				
	1:00 pm: Ray of Hope				
Monday:	4:30-5:30 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share				
Tuesday:	10:00 am: Bible Study				
	1:30-3:30 pm: GriefShare Meeting				
	5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main Meeting (NA)				
	7:00-9:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale Rehearsal				
Wednesday: 6:30-8:00 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group					
	8:00 pm: AA Meeting				
Thursday:	Maundy Thursday				
	3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open				
	6:00 pm: Emotional Sobriety II				
	6:30 pm: Maundy Thursday Worship Meal: Pot Luck Dinner				
Friday:	Good Friday				
	12:00 pm: Solemn Good Friday Service				
	7:00 pm: Solemn Good Friday Service				
Saturday:	Easter Vigil				
	9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at ALC				
	5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at ALC				
Sunday:	Easter				
	6:00 am: Sunrise Service: Worship and Communion				
	9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at ALC				
	10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV				
	10:00 am: Worship and Communion				
	1:00 pm: Ray of Hope				

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Jane Woodward. Jane's memorial service will take place in April (details to follow at a later date).

*Altar Flowers:* Are given for the glory of God.

*Deacons:* 3/24: Martin Troutman; 3/31: 6:00 am Sara Gallagher, 10:00 am Barbara Walter *Ushers:* 3/24: Mimi & Scott Fierle; 3/31: Lonny Walter, Gerry Keppel, Todd & Scott Vahue

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (\* indicates new names or changes added this week) Ruth Blank: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 374, Williamsville, NY 14221 \*Neal DeLeo: Greenfield Manor, #D110, 5958 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086 Marilyn Emerson: 33 Northfield Drive, Snyder, NY 14226 Douglas Endres: 26 Sovereign Court, Getzville, NY 14068 John Hornung: Brothers of Mercy, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031 Jan Isaacs: 6 Bush Gardens, Three Rod Road, Alden, NY 14004 Omar Jenson: The Maplewood, 100 Daniel Drive, Webster, NY 14580 \*Dave Lampe: 829 N Hurff Drive, Elmwood, IL 61529 Elaine Masman: Doseberg Campus, Room 120, 2700 North Forest Rd., Getzville, NY 14068 Ralph Mast: 150 Bissel Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14211 Dorothy Menth: Elderwood at Basset Park, 245 Bassett Rd., #54, Williamsville, NY 14221 \*Marion Niblock: Beechwood Rehab, 2235 Millersport Highway, #542, Getzville, NY 14068 Wilma Nantka: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #238, Williamsville, NY 14221 David Wolf: Solstice, 6363 Transit Road, #244, East Amherst, NY 14051 Ron Wolfe: 324 Village Park Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

*Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family:* Brian Maloney; Thomas Maier; Chad Israel

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In-Person Worship: St. Paul's has two in-person worship services: Saturday evening at 5:00 pm at the Amherst Lutheran Campus, and Sunday morning at 10:00 am at the Eggertsville Campus. Please be respectful of people around you regarding distancing and their comfort levels. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

*Church Unleashed:* If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

ALC Book Club: Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 11, beginning at 7:15 pm in the Gathering Room at Amherst Lutheran Campus. All are welcome! The book for April is <u>Horse</u> by Geraldine Brooks. The book for May will be <u>Demon Dragon</u> by Barbara Kingsolver. Contact me if you have any questions. Karin Johnson (716-689-6365 or karinej@roadrunner.com.)

**Prayer Team Ministry:** Once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Heidi at: Heidi@stpaulseggertsville.com

**Tigers Den Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The remaining pantry hours for March are: Thursday 3/28 from 3:00-6:30 pm. Pantry hours for April are: Thursday 4/4 and 4/18 from 3:00-6:30 pm;, and Saturday 4/13 and 4/27 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for April are: soup, toilet paper, and paper towels.

**Daily Bread Food Truck:** The 2024 Monday Meal Share is underway. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, contact the office at 716-835-0407 or dailybread4007@gmail.com. On the first Tuesday of each month, drivers are needed to deliver 20-25 meals prepared by Daily Bread to the residents of Kevin Guest House. The best time to deliver is between 10 am-Noon. It takes about 1 hour to get the food at church, deliver to KGH and return. Due to health concerns, KGH does not expect drivers to stay and visit. If you are interested in participating in this food ministry, please see sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room.



CH'q	ly M	leek :	Sche St	dule
Palm Sunday	Maundy	Good	Holy	Easter
Sat/Sun	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 23/24	March 28	March 29	March 30	March 31
Stripping of	Pot Luck	Solemn	Easter	Sunrise
the Altar	Dinner	Services	Vigil	Service
Sat @ALC 5:00 pm Sun@ SPEC 10:00 am	@SPEC 6:30 pm	@SPEC 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm	@ALC 5:00 pm	@SPEC 6:00 am 2nd Service 10:00 am



+ St. Paul's Mission + To empower others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We do that by: Seeking Connections, Enriching Faith, Nourishing Lives, and Demonstrating Love in God's Name.

St. Paul's Congregation Council

President: Kathryn Francis Vice-President: Robert Simpson Treasurer: William Niblock Secretary: Scott Vahue

Bob Brown David Dahlberg Susan Epstein Sara Hannon Gerri Horton Janet Schmidt Vanessa Solomon

Pastors

Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com Kristen Arends: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

> <u>Directors of Music</u> Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) Adam Schmidt (ALC)

<u>Christian Education Coordinator</u> June Piette

> <u>Youth Ministry</u> Adam Weber

<u>Digital Ministry</u> Andrew Gruszka

Church Office Staff

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