

Welcoming Statement

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church is committed to welcoming, loving, and embracing all. We open our door to people regardless of gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, race, ethnicity, mental or physical abilities, neurodiversity, addiction, citizenship status, housing status, or past imprisonment. We acknowledge and honor our different backgrounds and life experiences, commit ourselves to the work of equity and anti-racism, and come together to celebrate the gifts of unity and diversity as one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12). As Jesus loves us, we are called to love one another (John 15:12).

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March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

A special welcome to all visitors, it's a joy to worship with you!

Welcome to Worship at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church!

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES AND PAGERS. THANK YOU!

Worship Information

Hymns and liturgies for the service today are included in the bulletin. The congregation reads aloud anything in bold print following the “C”. You will note directions in the service for when to stand as you are able or to sit. If you would prefer to remain seated throughout worship, please feel free to do so.

Children Are Welcome!

Infants and children are encouraged to be present during worship. Youngsters are welcome and valued as important participants in worship and witness!

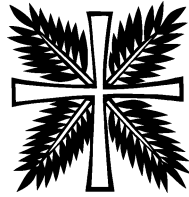
Hospitality

An elevator is available and can be accessed by taking the ramp at the front of the worship center entering the chapel and turning right. Restrooms are located off the stairwells leading to the Fellowship Hall and also outside the church office. Diaper changing tables have been placed in both the women’s and men’s restrooms off of Fellowship Hall.

Trouble Hearing?

Personal hearing amplifiers are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher to assist you.





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.

CENTERING

This is an intentional time to find a place of calm and to prepare through silent prayer and contemplation.

BELLS

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

L: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.


L: God, our rock and refuge,

C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.


L: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.


Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,




to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
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.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

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

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: and also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Sovereign God,

C: You have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READING

Isaiah 50:4–9a

The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

PSALM 118:1–2, 19–29

Liturgy of the Palms

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

²**Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”**

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰**This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**

²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²²**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

²³This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴**This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

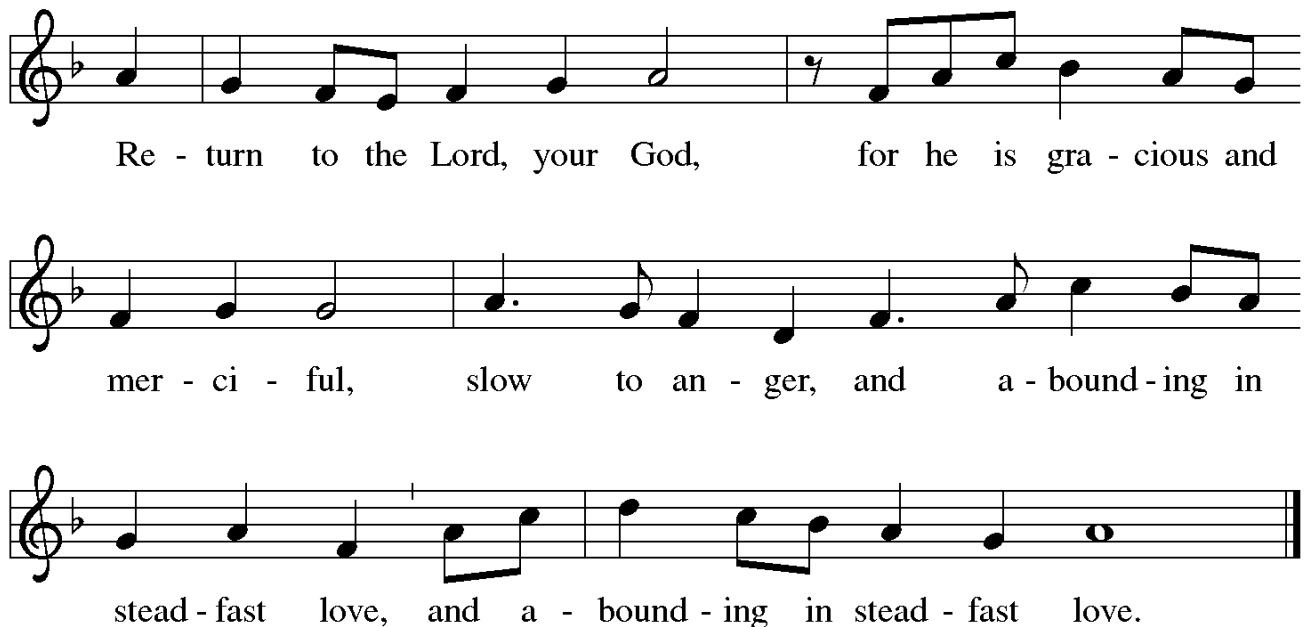
²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

²⁷The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹**O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

Mark 11:1–11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] 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, “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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Special Music: Children’s Trio

SERMON

Sophie Geister-Jones



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the
 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring
 pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
 gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.
 Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912–1993
 Music © 1941 by The H.W. Gray Co. Inc. Copyright renewed. All rights reserved.

A NEW CREED

C: We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our life and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Please respond with your mercy is great after each petition)

L: 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.

L: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

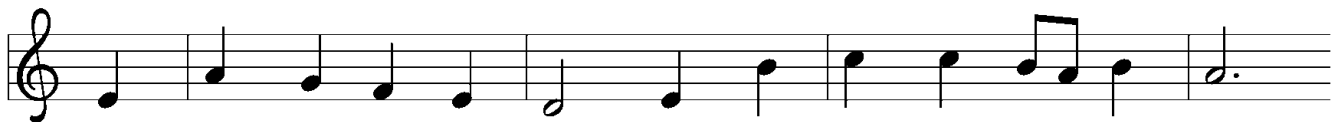
ELW 351

Verses 1 & 3

(All, as are able, rise for the last verse of the hymn as the ushers come forward with the gifts)



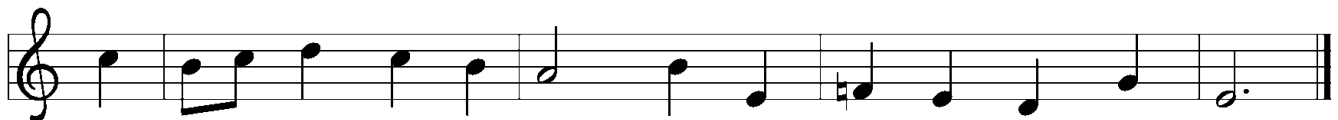
- 1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
- 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
- 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
- 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

C: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

BLESSING

L: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW 264

Verses 1-3



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

DISMISSAL

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

BELLS

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INTERIM PASTOR: Matthew Johnson

ORGANIST: Richard Duncan

OFFICE MANAGER: Sophie Geister-Jones

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Brenda Robbins

STREAMING TEAM: Zack Robbins, Roxanne Dunlop, Brenda Robbins, Paultina Rollay, Erin Brothen, Karl and Nick Salkowski

CANTORS: Margaret Wilkes, Bobbie Kuhlman

READER: Mugs Wilkes

USHERS: Jenny Power, Jim Power

TELLERS: Bobbie Kuhlman, Janet Lovejoy

COOKIE AND COFFEE SERVERS: The Power Family

Short-Term Prayer Requests:

Vi Bjorkstrand, Harley Ring, Chuck Dolezalek (dear friend of Susan & Brian Albers, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer), Eileen Finley, Kathy Mackdanz, MCLC Call Committee, the family of Carol Fisher, and the family of Don Ruscheinsky

Long-Term Prayer Requests:

(ongoing spiritual support for recovery, life-transitions, conditions, and emotional support)

Please pray for: Sharesti Anderson; Raelynn Anderson; Norm Arlandson; Jon Borodine; Allen Eckman; Linda Erickson (sister of Vicky Anderson); Jan Foster; Nancy Gallo; Doug Houge; Wanda Jenne (Sherry Trego's sister-in-law); Deb Lindquist; David & Andrea Olson; LaRhae (longtime friend of Richard); Paultina Rollay; Darlene Sandey; Mickey Trego; Peggy Williams & family; Carol (friend of Roxanne); Peter & family; baby William & mother Isabelle; and those we name in our hearts...

Thank you!

A great many thanks to Sophie Geister-Jones, BA in Religion from Augustana University (and our very own office manager), for preaching today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Crafternoon

Today, March 24 | 1–3 PM

You are invited to a fun afternoon working on your craft projects. We'll meet in the fireside room and enjoy a bit of fellowship and fun. Bring your project, or try something we have. MCLC members and everyone in the surrounding community are welcome.

Easter Breakfast

Please join us for breakfast before church on Easter Sunday. Food will be served continuously from 8:30–9:30 am. We'll be having deviled eggs, cinammon rolls, ham, orange juice, and coffee. We hope to see you there! If you would like to donate eggs or OJ, please contact Erin Brothen at ebrothen@gmail.com

Tea Party!

Saturday, April 20 | 11 am to 1:30 pm

Women of all ages are invited to attend WELCA's Annual Tea. A variety of tasty treats—sandwiches, salads, and desserts—will be served. The speaker this year is author, actor, and playwright Lorna Landvik. She is also a fellow Southsider and graduate of Roosevelt High School. Call the office for reservations by April 9th.

Gertens Flowers

Order your spring annuals and perennials through our church fundraiser through Gertens! Flowers will be delivered to the church on the morning of Monday, May 13. All orders must be placed *before* 10 pm on Monday, April 1st.

To order your flowers, go to:
www.gertensfundraising.com and use store ID 594.

Holy Week

We are partnering with St. Peder's for our Holy Week worship services this year.

Maundy Thursday (3/28) at MCLC | 7 pm

Good Friday (3/29) at St Peder's | 7 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 24–31		
Tuesday March 26	11 am 7 pm	MCLC Staff Meeting Alcoholics Anonymous
Wednesday March 27	9:30 am 7 pm	<i>Illuminator</i> Mailing Alcoholics Anonymous
Thursday March 28	7 pm 7 pm	Maundy Thursday (MCLC) Narcotics Anonymous
Friday March 29	7 pm 7 pm	Good Friday (St. Peder's) Alcoholics Anonymous
Saturday March 30	4:30 pm	Recovery Group
Sunday March 31	8:30 am 9:45 am	Easter Breakfast Worship/Sunday School <i>(Easter Sunday)</i>

May Preview

Rummage Sale

Friday, May 17 | 9 am to 1 pm

Bag Sale

Saturday, May 18 | 12 pm to 1 pm

Please bring your gently used/clean items to the church by May 12th. This is a good time to clean out the closets! Please do not bring items that are in disrepair or that we would have to pay to get rid of (computers, big TVs, non-working electrical items, car seats, strollers, mattresses, etc. If you have questions about something, feel free to leave a message with the church office).

Lots of able hands are needed to work the sale—people to set up on Wednesday and Thursday (May 15 and 16th), work the sale on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18 and clean up after 1:00 on Saturday. *We especially need folks who are available to help us pack up and haul out. If you have a van or truck to help get items to Goodwill that would be terrific.*

Also, we need bars to sell at the luncheon—let Pat Botten know if you are willing to bring a pan. Sloppy joes, chips, pickles and the bars will be sold. Many come just for the bars!

Please see Cleo Medlock, Patty Dolan, Mary Foslien or Pat Botten if you can help in any way. It's fun!