

April 2, 2023

# Palm/Passion Sunday

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

613 Lakeview Avenue

Milford, Delaware, 19963

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Phone: 302-422-9117

[www.rlcmilford.com](http://www.rlcmilford.com)

Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-3:30pm, Monday–Friday

Pat Sparks

Administrative Assistant

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

The Rev. Eric W. Evers & The Rev. Paige G. Evers

Pastors



## Spread the word!

*Please follow our church on Instagram: @rlcmilford*

Please “Like” Reformation’s **Facebook** page for news, announcements, and photos of church events!

[www.facebook.com/RLCmilford](http://www.facebook.com/RLCmilford)

Check in and **tweet** or post about what’s going on with the hashtag #RLCMilford, or post on Facebook and tag *Reformation Lutheran Church*.

## **Procession with Palms**

**P:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**C:** **Hosanna to the Son of David!**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray ...

**C:** **Amen.**

## **A reading from St. Matthew.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

## **The Blessing of the Palms**

*(The Congregation raises their branches.)*

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P:** We praise and thank you, O God...through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Let us go forth in peace.

**C:** **In the name of the Lord.**

*The Procession into the Sanctuary begins.*

**Hymn** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

**No. 344**

*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*

*(The congregation may be seated.)*

**Anthem** "Palm Sunday Processional"

**Choir**

## Greeting

**P:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C:** **Hosanna in the highest.**

**P:** Let us pray together:

**C:** **O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the Passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The 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. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>The 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; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## The Passion of the Lord according to Saint Matthew

(Matthew 27:11-54; bold text to be read by all)

<sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." <sup>12</sup>But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" <sup>14</sup>But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. <sup>15</sup>Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So after they had gathered, Pilate

said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”<sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.<sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.”<sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.

<sup>21</sup>The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “**Barabbas.**”<sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “**Let him be crucified!**”<sup>23</sup> Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “**Let him be crucified!**”<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”<sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, “**His blood be on us and on our children!**”

<sup>26</sup>So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him.<sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,<sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “**Hail, King of the Jews!**”<sup>30</sup> They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.<sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

<sup>33</sup>And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),<sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.<sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;<sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him.<sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

<sup>38</sup>Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.<sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads<sup>40</sup> and saying, “**You who would destroy the temple and build it in three**

**days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”** <sup>41</sup>In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup>“**He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.**” <sup>43</sup>**He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”** <sup>44</sup>The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. <sup>45</sup>From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup>And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” <sup>47</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, **“This man is calling for Elijah.”** <sup>48</sup>At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, **“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”**

<sup>50</sup>Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup>The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup>After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, **“Truly this man was God’s Son!”**

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.      **C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

Pastor Eric W. Evers

**Hymn of the Day**      “Ah, Holy Jesus”

**No. 349**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**P:** Hear us, O God,      **C:** Your mercy is great.

## The Lord's Prayer *(Prayed together)*

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and  
ever. Amen.

## The Peace

**Musical Offering**      "Within the Shadow of the Cross"      Choir

*"Within the shadow of the cross he stood on Calvary:  
a little boy, alone and lost, a little child like me.*

*Within the shadow of the cross he turned and raised his eyes.  
He wondered who this stranger was; why did he have to die?*

*Within the shadow of the cross he knelt on Calvary. No longer  
alone, no longer lost, a child of God like you and me."*

## The Great Thanksgiving

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

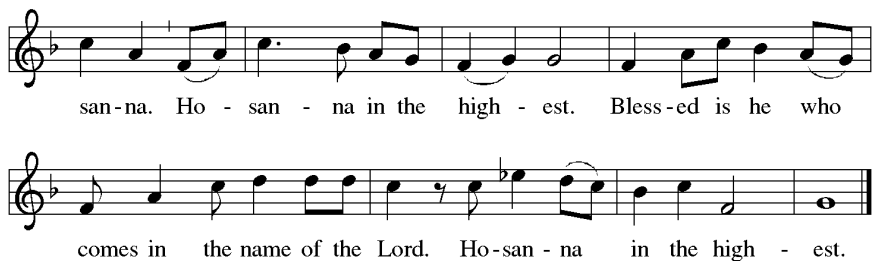
**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

### Holy, Holy, Holy

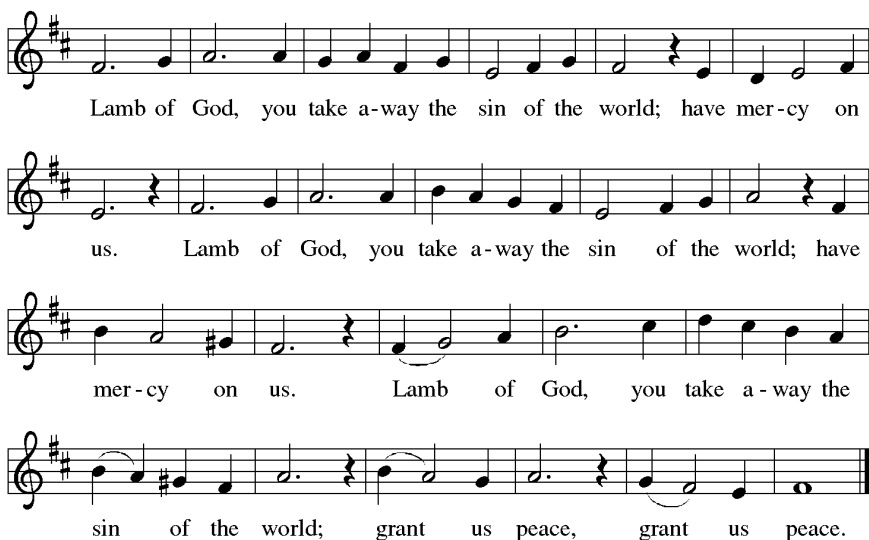




san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## The Words of Institution

### “Lamb of God”



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Distribution of Communion, Standing, at the Altar Rail

Communion Hymns: “Christ, the Life of All the Living,” No. 339; “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded,” No. 351; “Beneath the Cross of Jesus,” No. 338; “When Peace like a River,” No. 785

## Post-Communion Blessing

## Post-Communion Prayer



## Benediction

**Sending Hymn**

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

**No. 347**

## Dismissal

## Postlude

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*Thank you for placing your offering in the plate in the Narthex. For information about electronic giving, please visit [www.rlcmlford.com/give](http://www.rlcmlford.com/give).*

*Thank you to our KIDS Inc. students who prepared the palms for our service today.*

*Thank you to Susan, Zach, and Hilary Emory for the decorative potted palms around the altar.*

## SERVING TODAY

### April 2

Usher

Lay Reader

Worship Assistant

Healing Prayer

Acolyte

Altar Guild

Live Stream Operator

Fellowship Host

### 8:30

Carol Benner-Chaffinch

Mickey Chaffinch

John Leach

Connor Pencek

Gary Johnson

Jack or Shannon Pencek

Melissa Miller

### 11:00

Ed Huey

Karolyn Hayes

Lisa Caccamise

Maynard Gregory

Lexi Caccamise

Deb Bryant-Davis

## SERVING THIS WEEK (at 7:30 pm)

### \*Maundy Thursday

Usher	Tim & Cheryl Altares
Lay Reader	Kelsey Oldland
Worship Assistant	John Leach
Acolyte	Dresden Miller
Altar Guild	Eric Valentine
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville

### \*Good Friday

Usher	Ron Semmont
Lay Reader	John Leach
Live Stream Operator	Kristin Schlegel

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (EASTER SUNDAY)

### April 9

### 8:30

### 11:00

Usher	Chris & Melissa Miller	Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Joyce Nauman	Gary Johnson
Worship Assistant	Pam Curnock	Todd Hannah
Healing Prayer		
Acolyte	Dresden Miller	Lexi Caccamise
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner	Eric Valentine
Live Stream Operator	Soren Evers	
Fellowship Host	Mary Lu Wilson	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**It's Not Too Late!** Have you been thinking about attending the Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday? There is still time to sign-up. Forms are in the Narthex or call the church office, 302-422-9117. Please join us for this traditional meal.

**Have You Ordered Your Easter Flowers Yet?** We can accept orders through Tuesday if you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. The cost is \$12 per plant. If you would like to order flowers, please call the church office, 302-422-9117, no later than Tuesday.

**News from the Christian Service Committee:** There is still time to bring in items for the Easter baskets for 8 girls. We need items such as nail care products, journals, hair accessories, and pens. There will be a collection box in the narthex.

We are holding a clothing drive during April to assist Brandywine Counseling & Community Services. Donations will be accepted every Sunday in the Narthex. BCCS needs spring and summer clothing, the following items for men and women: jeans, t-shirts, shirts, hoodies, shoes, wash cloths, shampoos, conditioner, lotion, and hair accessories.

BCCS is a behavioral health community resource in Delaware. They provide education, prevention, early intervention, treatment, and justice-involved services for persons and families touched by mental illness, substance use, HIV and multiple occurring diagnosis, and their related challenges.

Contact Sherry Titherington, [pegasus67912@gmail.com](mailto:pegasus67912@gmail.com), if you have any questions about either program

**The New Worship Leader Schedule** is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen and has been emailed to everyone. This schedule runs through May 21. Please check your schedule and make sure to find a replacement if you are unable to serve on one of your dates. Thank you for your service in one or more worship leader roles.

**The Women of the ELCA (WELCA)** will not meet in April. We will meet again on May 4. We wish all a blessed Easter.

**Vacation Bible School:** Please save the date for a wonderful time of family fun and growing in faith together! Vacation Bible School will be held at Reformation as a family program with children and parents attending together (Grandparents are invited, too!) from Monday, June 19-Thursday, June 22 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Registration details will go out in the spring. Please save the date for VBS as you look ahead to the warmer days of summer! Feel free to contact Pastor Paige ([pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net](mailto:pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net)) with any questions. Please share this invitation with friends and neighbors, too!

**CPR/First Aid Training:** KIDS Inc. will be offering CPR/First Aid training in June (date to be determined). This program is at no cost to participants. If you would like to brush up on your training or learn the basics, please send an email to office@reformation-lutheran.net to let us know. We will contact you once the date has been confirmed.

**Happy Birthday to:** to Gary Johnson today, and Don Hannah and Sheree Talbott on the 8th.

**Happy Anniversary to:** Jim & Sheree Talbot on April 8th.

### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

#### ***April 6: Maundy Thursday***

Seder Meal at 6:00 pm

Worship Service at 7:30 pm

#### ***April 7: Good Friday***

Spoken Service at 12:00 pm

Seven Last Words/Tenebrae Service at 7:30 pm

#### ***April 8: Easter Vigil***

Service of Light at 7:00 pm

Preparation of Sanctuary at 7:30 pm

#### ***April 9: Easter Sunday Celebration***

Worship Service at 8:30 & 11:00 am

Coffee Fellowship at 9:45 am