

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

MARCH 24, 2024

WELCOME & GREETING

The story of Palm Sunday tells of how people removed their cloaks and spread them out in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. The cloak we wear every day to face the world is both the persona we wish to present, and our defense against the elements. As we come to worship may we be willing to lay down our defenses and disguises, at the feet of the One who sees us as we really are. And then, set free for worship, may we offer our praises with open hearts and lives.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Bless these parade palms, O God of Celebration, reminding us of the simple joys of living and the excitement that comes with following Christ. Bless these protest palms, O God of Justice, making us bold and brave to stand up against injustice. Bless these funeral palms, O God of Comfort, encouraging us in times of grief and pain, and guiding our step through this holiest of weeks as we cry out together:

"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"

FIRST READING: MARK 11:1-11

Lector: When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and 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. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'"

Assisting Minister: They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.



Lector: Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then 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.

PALM PROCESSIONAL | ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR

ELW #344

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We enter the city with God today...**and sing hosannas to our Savior.**

We turn our backs on the powers that grasp and control...

and open our hearts to the Son of God riding on a donkey.

We join his parade...**surrounded by the outcasts, the broken, the blind and the leper.**

We follow the One who brought freedom and peace...

to walk in solidarity with the abandoned and oppressed.

We shout for joy at Christ's coming as we join his disciples...

welcoming the broken, healing the sick, dining with outcasts.

Let us touch and see as God draws near...**riding in triumph towards the Cross.**

Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess our sins before God and one another. *(Pause for silence and reflection.)*

God of Love, **when we look inward and are honest with ourselves, we see where we have lived as though you are not our God. We have sought after our own gain rather than the good of all. We have not loved you or our neighbors as ourselves. We have betrayed and denied you in what we have done and not done. Create in us clean hearts, O God, that we might become what you have called us to be.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God whose unfathomable love went to the cross for our sake now forgives us all our sins and welcomes us all over again into the promise of eternal life in Christ's name.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, our blessed sovereign, **we gather with shouts of 'hosanna', knowing full well that we will soon be shouting 'crucify.'** Remind us that, come what may, you are still our God, and your love for us cannot be shaken, that we might go into this holy week with our eyes and ears open to what you would teach us. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

PSALM 118:1, 25-29

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

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

²⁶Blessed 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. ²⁹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 14:3-9

³While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise be to Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

HYMN OF THE DAY | MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN, VERSES 1, 2, 3 & 6

ELW #343

My Song Is Love Unknown

343



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might
the world that was his own would not its
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is
life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we walk together through this season of contemplation and preparation, we pray
for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

As people once raised palms, so we raise our song and prayers to you, O God, as we
follow throughout this crucial week. Assure us that you are always with us and your
promises are true. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

A donkey bore the weight of the world's deliverance. Show us the value of humble
things, and teach us your kingdom's logic-defying order. God of the journey, **hear
our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority and access, and we pray for those who sit
in more humble seats, that all may be led to seek you out, and follow more closely.
God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Be not hidden from our eyes, O Lord, in our time of infirmity. Be present with those
we bring before you, especially Dorothy, Lori, Ed, Terry, Dave, and all those we lift
through our Prayer Chain. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us to care for those in need through the outreach ministries of our
community. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread,
give hunger for justice. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down,
abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided, especially those seeking help through the
Community Infant Program, the Little Free Pantry, Rise Against Suicide, and the
Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Provide for the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Empower the staff and parents of children living on the Autism Spectrum. Nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of these children and adults, that they might reach their highest quality of life. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Encourage and empower those impacted by war, tyranny, and gun violence. Still the sounds of weapons. Teach us to seek security that comes from respect rather than violence. Strengthen and comfort the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Gaza, Sudan, Haiti and all those throughout the world whose lives are impacted by violence. Remind us of what You require of us: That we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, our help in every trouble, we pray for peace in the Holy Land. Protect those traumatized by ongoing violence, especially those with no access to safe spaces. Release people held hostage; provide food, water, fuel, and supplies for all in need; sustain medical personnel as they work in horrendous conditions; tend to those who are wounded; comfort all who grieve. Direct your people and its leaders into the way of peace. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Surely you must weep that we still cannot see the things which make for peace in this world. Be patient with our slowness to act and our inability to recognize your grace-filled opportunities to bring about justice. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You kept your dear ones close during your last week, O God. Join us all as one fellowship of witnesses to your faithfulness, both living and departed. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Confident that you walk alongside us in our need, we lift to you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, through Jesus Christ our savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

(Please share a sign of God's love and peace with one another.)

OFFERING PRAYER

God, you lavish your abundance upon us, like the woman with the alabaster jar. In gratitude we return these offerings to you, for the sake of our neighbors and the world. Bless them for the good use you have planned for them, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the LORD.

Let us give thanks to the LORD our GOD.

It is right to give GOD thanks and praise.

O Holy One, there are no words to describe the mystery of this bread and cup.

Thank you for gathering us together to remember that you are always present among us. There are no sighs deep enough to reveal what we feel in sharing the love that is present in this feast.

Tasting of that love, we remember that at that table, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." And, again, after supper, he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you would drink it, in remembrance of me."

By eating this bread and drinking this wine we become one in hope...the hope that is ours in the Prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Jesus invites you to the banquet, and pours out his holy presence upon you like costly ointment. Come share in the bread and wine and be strengthened for this journey of Holy Week. All is prepared.

SHARING THE MEAL

This is the body of Christ, broken in love for you.

This is the blood of Christ, poured out in forgiveness of you.

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

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1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
 2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
 3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
 4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.

Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
 Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
 for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
 Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: Ray Makeever; arr. Rusty Edwards

Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

JESUS, FEED US

7 4 7 5

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

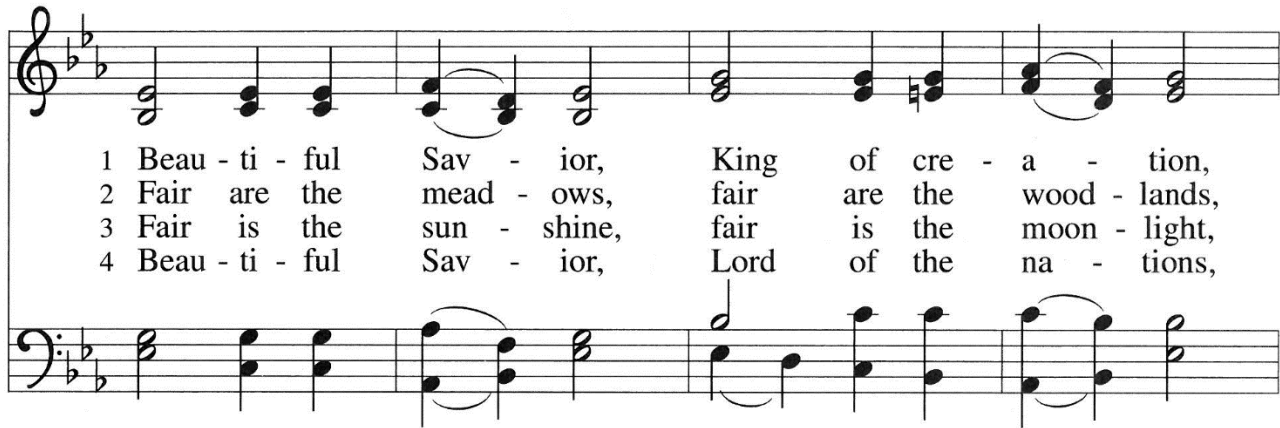
CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN | BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

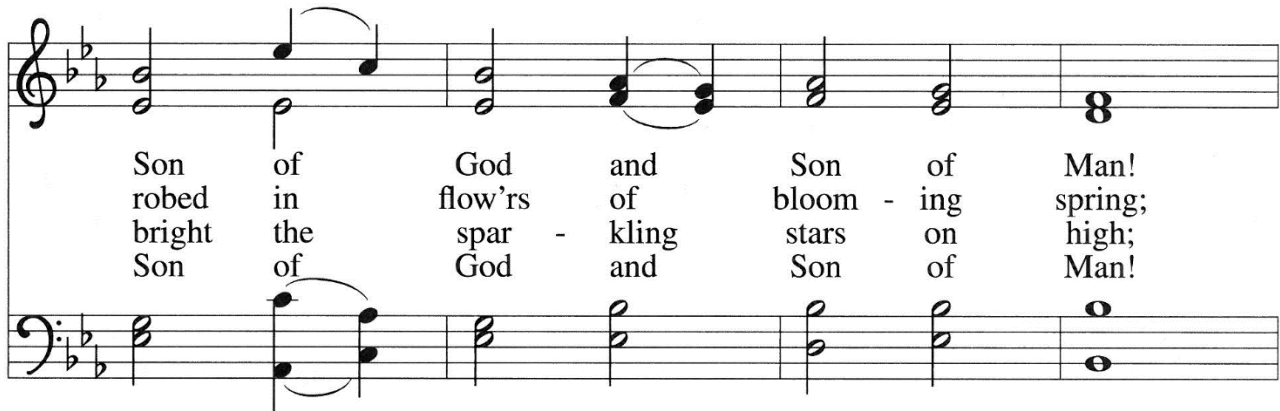
ELW #838

Beautiful Savior

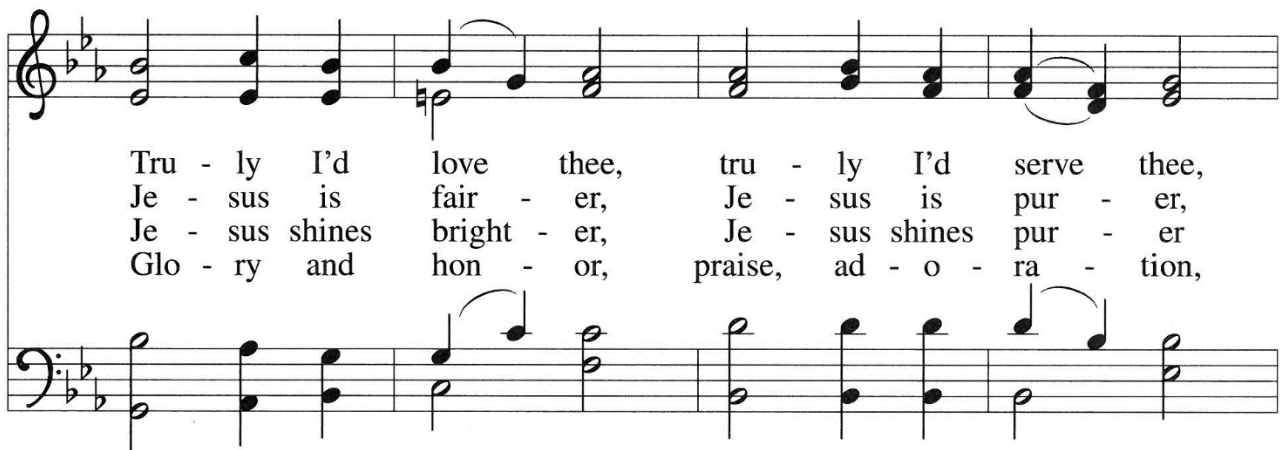
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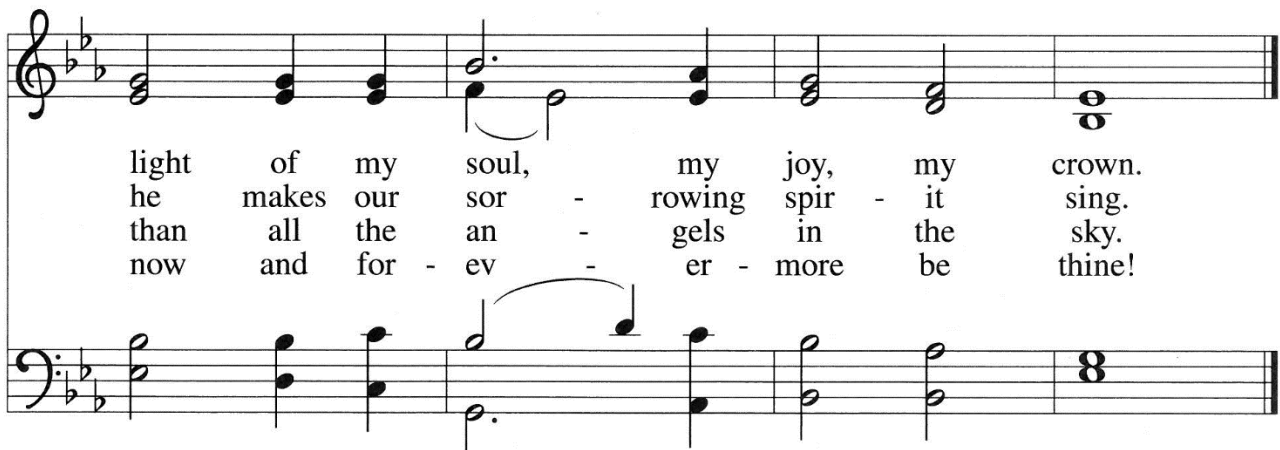
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright in the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Blessed is the one who comes to us by the way of love poured out with abandon.
Blessed is the one who walks toward us by the way of grace that holds us fast.
Blessed is the one who calls us to follow in the way of blessing in the path of joy.
Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.
Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all.
Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

WORSHIP RESOURCES:

WELCOME & GREETING – ANN SIDDALL

BLESSING OF THE PALMS – REV. CAELA SIMMONS WOOD, *AS ADAPTED*

PALM SUNDAY CALL TO WORSHIP – CHRISTINE SINE, *AS ADAPTED*

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PRAYER OF THE DAY – NARRATIVE LECTIONARY WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2023 CLERGY STUFF

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – ERIC MILNER WHITE

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BENEDICTION & SENDING – JAN L. RICHARDSON, *AS ADAPTED*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

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CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD: GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

ASSISTING MINISTER: TIM KIRCHOFF

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: KATHY WOOTTON

LECTOR: CAROLINE MICHALAK

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MARCH 24 – MARCH 31, 2024

Sunday, March 24th – Palm Sunday – Triumphal Entry

9:30 a.m. – Palm Processional Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship
with Holy Communion

Wednesday, March 27th

11:00 a.m. – Amazing Grace Book Study by Zoom

Maundy Thursday, March 28th – Words of Institution

6:30 p.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday, March 29th – Crucifixion

7:00 a.m. – Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study

6:30 p.m. – Good Friday Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship

Easter Sunday, March 31st – Resurrection

6:38 a.m. – Sunrise Service at Boulder Reservoir with Trinity Lutheran

9:30 a.m. – Easter Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion
Potluck Brunch immediately following Worship

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

ED J. 3/1

EMILY T. 3/3

MICHELLE K. 3/5

T. SCHREIER 3/6

PASTOR JANET
3/21

LYNN T. 3/25

DICK W. 3/27

NINA S. 3/30

DAILY NARRATIVE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 24, 2024—YEAR 2

Monday, March 25, 2024 - A Woman Anoints Jesus—Mark 14:3 - 9

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-143-9-a-woman-anoints-jesus2024>

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus – Mark 14:43 - 65

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-1443-65-the-betrayal-and-arrest-of-jesus2024>

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 – Peter Denies Jesus – Mark 14:66 - 72

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-1466-72-peter-denies-jesus2024>

Thursday, March 28, 2024 – The Lord's Supper – Mark 14:12 - 42

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-1412-42-lords-supper2024>

Friday, March 29, 2024 – Crucifixion – Mark 15:16 - 39

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-1516-39-crucifixion2024>

Saturday, March 30, 2024 – The Death and Burial of Jesus – Mark 15:40 - 47

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-1540-47-the-death-and-burial-of-jesus2024>

Sunday, March 31, 2024 – Resurrection – Mark 16:1 - 8

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-161-8-resurrection2024>