

Faith Lutheran Church

April 14, 2019



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An Opportune Time

The forty-day confrontation between Jesus and Satan among barren rocks in the wilderness echoes menacingly through the raucous Palm Sunday praise songs and victory chants that gush like rampaging waters down the silvery-green slopes of the Mount of Olives. The déjà vu crisis brewing around and within the insurgent, panicked crowd is inescapable. The confrontation has returned. In the wilderness, “when the devil had finished every test, he departed from [Jesus] until an opportune time” (Luke 4:13). That time has arrived.

Then, in the barren desert, Jesus would not turn stone to bread for himself. Now, on the Mount of Olives, he descends to break bread with and for others. Then, in the desolate wild, Jesus denied the world’s counterfeit authority. Now, on the Mount of Olives, he claims sovereignty over the cosmos astride a colt. Then, in the parched wadis, he neither tested nor demanded his Father’s protection. Now, on the Mount of Olives, he withdraws to pray, “Father, . . . not my will but yours be done” (Luke 22:42).

Remember the scene in hometown Nazareth where “all spoke well of [Jesus,] . . . amazed at his gracious words,” but then quickly turned on him, “filled with rage” (Luke 4:22, 28)? Now in golden Jerusalem, the shout “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” changes to “Crucify, crucify him!” (Luke 19:38; 23:21).

For guilt-burdened, shame-heavy sinners; for forgotten prisoners; for the everyday hungry; for exploited workers; for those sick without health care, lost without direction, condemned without forgiveness, weak without support, unwanted without home, Jesus was—is—the hope of God’s kingdom come. For brokers of religious law, the uneasy rich, crafters of injustice, hard-fisted custodians of power, the overfed, hoarders of privilege, sellers of violence, and deniers of mercy, Jesus was—is—the threat of God’s kingdom come. On the Mount of Olives, God’s kingdom will not be denied. The time has arrived.

Sunday, April 14
Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday
The Cry of the Whole Congregation
Holy Communion

*All who are able shall gather in the narthex
for the beginning of this service.*

Brief introduction

1. The Entry into Jerusalem

NARRATOR:

When he got near Bethphage and Bethany at the mountain called Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: “Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you’ll find a colt tethered, one that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says anything or asks, ‘What are you doing?’ say, ‘His Master needs him.’”

The two left and found it just as he said. . .

PEOPLE:

**AS THEY WERE UNTYING THE COLT,
ITS OWNERS SAID, “WHAT ARE YOU
DOING UNTYING THE COLT?”**

PETER:

They brought the colt to Jesus. Then, throwing their coats on its back, they helped Jesus get on.

NARRATOR:

As he rode, the people gave him a grand welcome, throwing their coats on the street. Right at the crest, where Mount Olives begins its descent, the whole crowd of disciples burst into enthusiastic praise over all the mighty works they had witnessed.

All process into sanctuary waving palms.

“Triumphal Entry”

(Bedford)

Faith Bells

OPENING HYMN

#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.

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

“Antiphonal Hosanna”

(Smith)

Chancel Choir and Joyful Noise

PHARISEE:

Some Pharisees from the crowd told him,
“Teacher, get your disciples under control!”

NARRATOR:

But he said, “If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise.” When the city came into view, he wept over it. “If you had only recognized this day, and everything that was good for you! But now it’s too late, in the days ahead your enemies are going to bring up their heavy artillery and surround you, pressing in from every side. They’ll smash you and your babies on the pavement. Not one stone will be left intact. All this because you didn’t recognize and welcome God’s personal visit.”

2. The Preparation and the Eating of the Last Supper

NARRATOR:

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, also called Passover, drew near. The high priests and religion scholars were looking for a way to do away with Jesus but, fearful of the people, they were also looking for a way to cover their tracks.

JUDAS:

That's when Satan entered Judas, the one called Iscariot. He was one of the Twelve. Leaving the others, he conferred with the high priests and the Temple guards about how he might betray Jesus to them. They couldn't believe their good luck and agreed to pay him well. He gave them his word and started looking for a way to betray Jesus, but out of sight of the crowd.

NARRATOR:

The Day of Unleavened Bread came, the day the Passover lamb was butchered. Jesus sent Peter and John off, saying, "Go prepare the Passover for us so we can eat it together."

PEOPLE:

THEY SAID, "WHERE DO YOU WANT US TO DO THIS?"

NARRATOR:

He said, "Keep your eyes open as you enter the city. A man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him home. Then speak with the owner of the house saying, "The Teacher wants to know, 'Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?'"

He will show you a spacious second-story room swept and ready. Prepare the meal there." They

left, found everything just as he told them, and prepared the Passover meal.

When it was time he sat down, all the apostles with him, and said, “You’ve no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. It’s the last one I’ll eat until we all eat it together in the kingdom of God.” Taking the cup, he blessed it, then said, “Take this and pass it among you. As for me, I’ll not drink wine again until the kingdom of God arrives.’ Taking bread, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, given for you. Eat it in my memory.” He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant, written in my blood, blood poured out for you.”

COMMUNION

Communion music:

“Trio #1”

(James Hook)

Flutes of Faith

“Ah, Dearest Jesus”

arr. Wilbur Held

“Alas and Did My Savior Bleed”

Robert Buckley Fuller

NARRATOR:

“Do you realize that the hand of the one who is betraying me is at this moment on this table?

It’s true that the Son of Man is going down a path already marked out—no surprises there. But for the one who turns him in, turns traitor to the Son of Man, this is doomsday.”

PEOPLE:

**THEY IMMEDIATELY BECAME
SUSPICIOUS OF EACH OTHER AND
BEGAN QUIZZING ONE ANOTHER,
WONDERING WHO MIGHT BE
ABOUT TO DO THIS.**

NARRATOR:

He said, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. Oh, it would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

JUDAS:

Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Is it I, Master?”

NARRATOR:

Jesus said to him, “You have said so.”

PETER:

Peter said, “Master, I’m ready for anything with you. I’d go to jail for you, I’d *die* for you.”

NARRATOR:

Jesus said, ‘I’m sorry to have to tell you this, Peter, but before the rooster crows you will have three times denied that you know me.’”

PETER:

Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will never deny you!”

PEOPLE:

**AND SO SAID ALL OF THE DISCIPLES,
OVER AND OVER AGAIN.**

3. The Agony in the Garden

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Chancel Choir

“Lenten Love Song”

Kemp

PEOPLE: *(To be sung)*

**GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE, ALL
WHO FEEL THE TEMPTER’S POWER;
YOUR REDEEMER’S CONFLICTS SEE,
WATCH WITH HIM ONE BITTER HOUR;
TURN NOT FROM HIS GRIEFS AWAY,
LEARN OF JESUS CHRIST TO PRAY.**

NARRATOR:

Leaving there, he went, as he so often did, to Mount Olives. The disciples followed him. When they arrived at the place, he said, “Pray that you don’t give in to temptation.”

PEOPLE:

**LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US, DELIVER US.**

NARRATOR:

He pulled away from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father remove this cup from me. But please, not what I want. What do *you* want?”

PEOPLE:

**OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY NAME. THY
KINGDOM COME; THY WILL BE DONE.
THY WILL BE DONE.
THY WILL BE DONE.**

NARRATOR:

He got up from prayer, went back to the disciples and found them asleep, drugged by grief. He said, “What business do you have sleeping? Get up. Pray so you won’t give in to temptation.”

PEOPLE:

**LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL, EVEN
THE EVIL WITHIN OURSELVES.**

JUDAS:

No sooner were the words out of his mouth than a crowd showed up, led by Judas, in the lead. He came right up to Jesus to kiss him.

NARRATOR:

Jesus said, “Judas, you would betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

JUDAS:

Judas said, “Hail, Master.”

PEOPLE:

**WHEN THOSE WITH HIM SAW WHAT
WAS HAPPENING, THEY SAID,
“MASTER, SHALL WE FIGHT?”**

PETER:

One of them took a swing at the Chief Priest’s servant and cut off his right ear.

NARRATOR:

Jesus said, “Let them be. Even in this.” Then, touching the servant’s ear, he healed him.

PEOPLE:

**FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO
TRESPASS AGAINST US.**

NARRATOR:

Jesus spoke to those who had come—high priests, Temple police, religious leaders: “What is this, jumping me with swords and clubs as if I were a dangerous criminal? Day after day I’ve been with you in the Temple and you’ve not so much as lifted a hand against me. But do it your way—it’s a dark night, a dark hour. Then they arrested him.

4. The Judgment

PEOPLE: *(To be sung)*

**FOLLOW TO THE JUDGMENT HALL,
VIEW THE LORD OF LIFE ARRAIGNED;
OH, THE WORMWOOD AND THE GALL!
OH, THE PANGS HIS SOUL SUSTAINED!
SHUN NOT SUFFERING, SHAME OR
LOSS; LEARN FROM HIM TO BEAR
THE CROSS.**

NARRATOR:

Then they arrested him and they marched him off and took him into the house of the Chief Priest.

PETER:

Peter followed, but at a safe distance.
In the middle of the courtyard some people
had started a fire and were sitting around it,
trying to keep warm.

PEOPLE:

**ONE OF THE SERVING MAIDS SITTING
AT THE FIRE NOTICED HIM, THEN
TOOK A SECOND LOOK AND SAID,
“THIS MAN WAS WITH HIM!”**

PETER:

Peter denied it saying,
“Woman, I don’t even know him.”

PEOPLE:

**A SHORT TIME LATER, SOMEONE
ELSE NOTICED HIM AND SAID,
“YOU’RE ONE OF THEM.”**

PETER:

But Peter denied it: “Man, I am not.”

PEOPLE:

**ABOUT AN HOUR LATER, SOMEONE
ELSE SPOKE UP, REALLY ADAMANT:
“HE’S GOT TO HAVE BEEN WITH HIM!
HE’S GOT ‘GALILEAN’ WRITTEN ALL
OVER HIM.”**

PETER:

Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

NARRATOR:

At that very moment, the last word hardly off his lips, a rooster crowed. Just then, the Master turned and looked at Peter.

PETER:

Peter remembered what the Master had said to him: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” He went out and cried and cried and cried.

NARRATOR:

The men in charge of Jesus began poking fun at him, slapping him around. They put a blindfold on him and taunted.

PEOPLE:

“WHO HIT YOU THAT TIME?!”

NARRATOR:

They were having a grand time with him. When it was morning, the religious leaders of the people and the high priests and scholars all got together and brought him before their High Council.

PEOPLE:

THEY SAID, “ARE YOU THE MESSIAH?”

NARRATOR:

He answered, “If I said yes, you wouldn’t believe me. If I asked what you meant by your question, you wouldn’t answer me. So here’s what I have to say: From here on the Son of Man takes his place at God’s right hand, the place of power—”

PEOPLE:

THEY ALL SAID, “SO YOU ADMIT YOUR CLAIM TO BE THE SON OF GOD?”

NARRATOR:

“You’re the ones who keep saying it,” he said.

PEOPLE:

BUT THEY HAD MADE UP THEIR MINDS, “WHY DO WE NEED ANY MORE EVIDENCE? WE’VE ALL HEARD HIM AS GOOD AS SAY IT HIMSELF.”

5. Dawn Friday: Jesus Before Pilate

NARRATOR:

Then they all took Jesus to Pilate and began to bring up charges against him.

PEOPLE:

THEY SAID, “WE FOUND THIS MAN UNDERMINING OUR LAW AND ORDER, FORBIDDING TAXES TO BE PAID TO CAESAR, SETTING HIMSELF UP AS MESSIAH-KING!”

PILATE:

Pilate asked him, “Is this true that you’re ‘King of the Jews’?”

NARRATOR:

“Those are your words, not mine,” Jesus replied.

PILATE:

Pilate told the high priests and the accompanying crowd, “I find nothing wrong here. He seems harmless enough to me.”

PEOPLE:

BUT THEY WERE VEHEMENT.

“HE’S STIRRING UP UNREST AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH HIS TEACHING, DISTURBING THE PEACE EVERYWHERE, STARTING IN GALILEE AND NOW ALL THROUGH JUDEA. HE’S A DANGEROUS MAN, ENDANGERING THE PEACE.”

PILATE:

When Pilate heard that, he asked, “So, he’s a Galilean?” Realizing that he properly came under Herod’s jurisdiction, he passed the buck to Herod, who just happened to be in Jerusalem for a few days.

NARRATOR:

Herod was delighted when Jesus showed up. He had wanted for a long time to see him. He’d heard so much about him. He hoped to see him do something spectacular. He peppered him with questions. Jesus didn’t answer, not one word. But the high priests and religion scholars were right there, saying their piece, strident and shrill in their accusations. Mightily offended, Herod turned on Jesus. His soldiers joined in, taunting and jeering. Then they dressed him up in an elaborate king costume and sent him back to Pilate.

PILATE:

Then Pilate called in the high priests, rulers, and others and said, “You brought this man to me as a disturber of the peace. I examined him in front of all of you and found there was nothing to your charge. And neither did Herod, for he has sent him back here with a clean bill of health.

It's clear that he's done nothing wrong, let alone anything deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go."

PEOPLE:

**AT THAT, THE CROWD WENT WILD:
"KILL HIM! GIVE US BARABBAS!"**

NARRATOR:

Barabbas had been thrown in prison for starting a riot in the city and for murder.

PILATE:

Pilate still wanted to let Jesus go, and so spoke out again.

PEOPLE:

**BUT THEY KEPT SHOUTING BACK,
"CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM!"**

PILATE:

He tried a third time. "But for what crime? I've found nothing in him deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go."

PEOPLE:

**BUT THEY KEPT AT IT, A SHOUTING
MOB, DEMANDING THAT HE BE
CRUCIFIED.**

NARRATOR:

And finally they shouted him down.

PILATE:

Pilate caved in and gave them what they wanted. He released the man thrown in prison for rioting and murder, and gave them Jesus to do whatever they wanted.

6. Friday Morning: Crucifixion

PEOPLE: *(To be sung)*

**CALVARY'S MOURNFUL MOUNTAIN
CLIMB; THERE, ADORING AT HIS FEET,
MARK THAT MIRACLE OF TIME,
GOD'S OWN SACRIFICE COMPLETE.
"IT IS FINISHED!" HEAR HIM CRY;
LEARN FROM JESUS CHRIST TO DIE.**

NARRATOR:

And Jesus he gave them to do whatever they wanted.

ALL MEN:

**AS THEY LED HIM OFF, THEY MADE
SIMON, A MAN FROM CYRENE WHO
HAPPENED TO BE COMING IN FROM
THE COUNTRYSIDE CARRY THE CROSS
BEHIND JESUS. A HUGE CROWD OF
PEOPLE FOLLOWED.**

**ALL WOMEN:
ALONG WITH WOMEN WEEPING
AND CARRYING ON.**

NARRATOR:

At one point Jesus turned to the women and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for your children. The time is coming when they’ll say, ‘Lucky the women who never conceived! Lucky the wombs that never gave birth! Lucky the breasts that never gave milk!’ They they’ll start calling to the mountains, ‘Fall down on us!’ calling to the hills, ‘Cover us up!’ If people do these things to a live, green tree, can you image what they’ll do with deadwood?”

SOLO:

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

NARRATOR:

Two others, both criminals, were taken along with him for execution. When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left.

SOLO:

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble -
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

NARRATOR:

Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them;
they don’t know what they’re doing.”

ALL WOMEN:

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.

ALL MEN:

**DIVIDING UP HIS CLOTHES,
THEY THREW DICE FOR THEM.**

ALL WOMEN:

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.

ALL MEN:

**THE PEOPLE STOOD THERE
STARING AT JESUS, AND THE
RINGLEADERS MADE FACES,
TAUNTING, “HE SAVED OTHERS.
LET’S SEE HIM SAVE HIMSELF!
THE MESSIAH OF GOD—HA!
THE CHOSEN—HA!**

ALL WOMEN:

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.

ALL MEN:

**THE SOLDIERS ALSO CAME UP
AND POKED FUN AT HIM, MAKING
A GAME OF IT. THEY TOASTED HIM
WITH SOUR WINE: “SO YOU’RE KING
OF THE JEWS! SAVE YOURSELF!”**

ALL WOMEN:

**PRINTED OVER HIM WAS A SIGN:
‘THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS’**

ALL MEN:

**FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.
FORGIVE US, O LORD, OUR TRESPASSES!**

JUDAS:

One of the criminals hanging alongside
cursed him, “Some Messiah you are!
Save yourself! Save us!”

PETER:

But the other one made him be quiet: “Have you
no fear of God? You’re getting the same as him.
We deserve this, but not him; he did nothing to
deserve this.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember
me when you enter your kingdom.”

PEOPLE:

**FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES,
DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
THINE IS THE KINGDOM. . .**

NARRATOR:

And Jesus said to him. . .

PEOPLE:

AND THE POWER. . .

NARRATOR:

“Don’t worry, I will. . .

PEOPLE:

AND THE GLORY. . .

NARRATOR:

Today you will join me in Paradise.”

PEOPLE:

FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!

SOLO:

*Were you there when he cried out at the end?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble –
Were you there when he cried out at the end?*

NARRATOR:

By now it was noon. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours—a total blackout. The temple curtains split right down the middle. Jesus called loudly, “Father, I place my life in your hands!” Then he breathed his last. People had gathered around as spectators to watch the show.

PEOPLE:

**WHEN THEY SAW WHAT ACTUALLY
HAPPENED, THEY WERE OVERCOME
WITH GRIEF AND HEADED HOME.**

ALL WOMEN:

**THOSE WHO KNEW JESUS WELL,
ALONG WITH THE WOMEN WHO
HAD FOLLOWED HIM FROM GALILEE,
STOOD AT A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE
AND KEPT VIGIL.**

7. Late Friday Afternoon: Burial

A CAPPELLA SOLO:

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble -
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

PILATE:

There was a man by the name of Joseph, a member of the Jewish High Council, a man of good heart and good character. He had not gone along with the plans and actions of the council. His hometown was the Jewish village of Arimathea. He lived in alert expectation of the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Taking him down, he wrapped him in a linen shroud and placed him in a tomb chiseled into the rock, a tomb never yet used.

NARRATOR:

It was the day before Sabbath,
the Sabbath just about to begin.

ALL WOMEN:

**THE WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN
COMPANIONS OF JESUS FROM
GALILEE FOLLOWED ALONG.
THEY SAW THE TOMB WHERE
JESUS' BODY WAS PLACED.
THEN THEY WENT BACK TO
PREPARE BURIAL SPICES AND
PERFUMES.**

NARRATOR:

They rested quietly on the
Sabbath, as commanded.

Please join the choir in singing the final hymn

CLOSING HYMN

Now We Remain

ELW #500

The assembly leaves the sanctuary in silence.

“The Cry of the Whole Congregation”
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Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

April 7 Attendance: 80

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

Serving Faith	April 14	April 21
Acolyte	Austin Jones	open
Altar Care	Gail Barricklow & Linda Gerard	
Communion Assistants	Austin Jones	open
	Passion Play	Brian Ransom
	Passion Play	Kim O'Brien
Greeters	Ken & Karen Whitmyer	Marla Holle
Readers	Passion Play	Brian Ransom
Lay Assistant	Passion Play	Kim O'Brien
Ushers	Bill & Pam Williams	Ken Schoepf
Nursery	Heidi Bowers	Jennifer Coe
Coffee Hosts	O'Briens	open

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, April 14

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by...

Vase 1: Ledith Ambs in memory of Max Ambs.

Vase 2: Walter, Becca, Katy, Austin and Ciara in celebration of Brenda's birthday.

Altar Flowers are provided by Al-Lins of Okemos

Maundy Thursday Service – April 18

7:00 PM Service at Faith Lutheran

Jesus is making his journey to the cross. That journey includes time with the disciples at that upper room meal where Jesus gives us a new commandment and greets us with his very life and blood. Be present in the quiet as the altar is stripped and we follow Jesus' journey to Gethsemane.

Good Friday Services – April 19

12:00 Noon Service at Okemos Community Church

This will be a combined service with the following churches participating: Okemos Presbyterian, Okemos Community, Faith Lutheran and Haslett Community Church. A joint choir will be singing at this service and the offering taken at this service will go to the local area food banks.

Okemos Community Church: 4734 Okemos Rd, Okemos

7:00 PM Service at Faith Lutheran Church

Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church will join us for this service as the combined choirs sing *Once Upon a Tree*, a musical version of Luke's account of Jesus' passion. Join us for this deeply meaningful experience.

Easter Service - Sunday, April 21

10:00 AM Easter Worship

Come, rejoice with us in worship as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Our alleluias will again be proclaimed as we share the joy of the Risen Christ.

