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W6016 COUNTY RD. W  
HOLMEN, WI 54636

# Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*April 2, 2023—Palm Sunday*  
*Welcome to Worship*

*Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Sesvold      Accompaniment: Lynn Wegner*



*You are invited to speak the **bold** text. Please stand as you are able at parts marked \**

DRAMATIC OPENING

In Gathering Space (see insert)

MUSIC

*Pave the Way with Branches*

ACS #928

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Look! Your ruler is coming to you!

**Mounted on a donkey,**

And on a colt, the foal of the donkey.

**Hosannah in the highest heaven!**

\*GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Triumphant Jesus, you entered the city to shouts of “Hosannah!” and reclaimed God’s holy house for God’s purposes. Give us a heart for your worship and passion for your justice. Amen.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Listen to the Word*

ACS 974

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

DRAMATIC READING: Matthew 21:1-17

Readers: Narrator, Jesus, Prophet, Crowd, City Folk, Chief Priest

**Narrator:** When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,

**Jesus:** “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.”

**Narrator:** This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

**Prophet (Pulpit Side):** “**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.**”

**Narrator:** 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,

**Crowd (Piano Side): “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

**Narrator:** When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking,

**City Folk (Pulpit Side): “Who is this?”**

**Narrator:** The crowds were saying,

**Crowd (Piano Side): “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”**

**Narrator:** Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them,

**Jesus:** “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a den of robbers.”

**Narrator:** The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry and said to him,

**Chief Priest (Pulpit Side): “Do you hear what these are saying?”**

**Narrator:** Jesus said to them,

**Jesus:** “Yes; have you never read, ‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself’?”

**Narrator:** He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

The Gospel of the Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

REPENTANCE FOR RIPPING THE CHURCH TO PIECES

CONFESSION

**Most holy and merciful Father; We confess to you and to one another, And to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; By what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Pastor: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Pastor: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ serves us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Pastor: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Pastor: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of others.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Pastor: For our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Pastor: For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

**Have mercy on us Lord.**

Pastor: For our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

#### RIPPING OF THE SHEET

*You are invited to come forward and to rip off a strip of the sheet. Return to your seat with the strip of sheet. (Silence is kept after that as the rest of the congregation comes forth to rip a piece of fabric from the sheet.)*

#### SPECIAL MUSIC: CONFESSION (FORGIVE US LORD)

#### REPENTANCE THROUGH THE STRIPS OF FABRIC

*As a visual sign of our prayers and petitions to God, and as a sign of our confession to God for things done and left undone, you are invited to come forward with your strip of fabric during communion and tie it someplace on the cross.*

#### ABSOLUTION OF SINS

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In that love God forgives you all your sin, for the sake of our savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## \*APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION

... Merciful God, **hear our prayer**

We lift these prayers to you, Gracious God, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our savior. **Amen.**

## \*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## \*OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God*

ELW 188

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

**God, you do not require sacrifices, but instead call us to respond in gratitude for all that you have given us. Bless these gifts we joyfully offer, for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## \*LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

\*COMMUNION

Take the bread: this is the body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

Take the cup: this is the blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

*Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

ELW 335

*By Your Hand You Feed Your People*

ELW 469

\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

\*SENDING SONG

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

\*DISMISSAL

Go in peace, Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

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### **Announcements:**

Birthdays this week: 2 Anika Sesvold 3 Noah Hanson, Gregory Temp 4 Rachael Hauser, Trinity Horstman 6 Rhonda Britton, Doug Gordon, Zach Johnson, Cassie Tremain-Tolvstad

Noisy Offering: During April the Noisy Offering will go towards Environmental Causes: stay tuned to E-News for the latest!

Giving at HCLC—Thank you for your generosity! Our average weekly expenses are \$3912. We appreciate all the ways you help to meet our needs and the needs of others!

NOTE: HCLC Office will be closed on Monday, April 10.

# *Holy Week—April 6-9, 2023*

## **Maundy Thursday**

6:00 p.m. Agape Feast followed by Communion  
at Journey Lutheran

## **Good Friday**

Noon Crosswalk— meet at Halfway Creek bandshell  
1:00 p.m. Community Worship at Holmen Lutheran  
7:00 p.m. Worship at HCLC

## **Easter Sunday at HCLC**

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

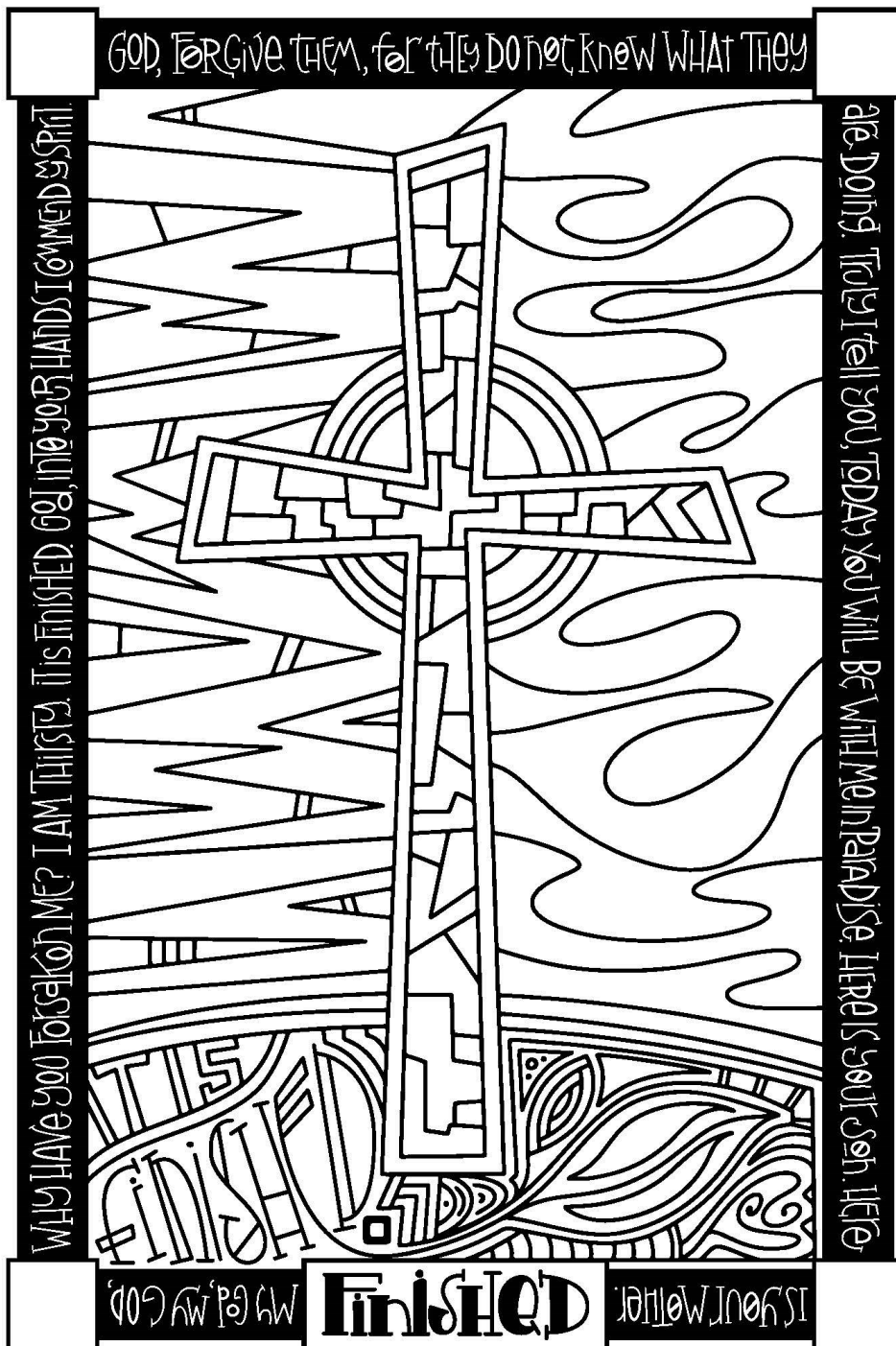
*All are welcome to join us for worship!*

*For livestream worship visit our website, YouTube channel or Facebook page!*

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*We pray for ... Joan Vaughn, Bridget Ferk, Pat Krause, Thelma Severson, Lisa Herrera Evans, Katie Wier, Phoebe Kitzke, Ayla Humphrey, Gayle Kuespert, Mark Sanders, Beulah Sanders, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Dawson Reed, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebakken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, Zach Mossman, Marie Jezova, Coats family*



GOD, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY

are doing. Today I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise. Here is your son, here

WHY HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME? I AM THIRSTY. IT IS FINISHED. GO, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.

WHY HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME?

**FINISHED**

IS YOUR FATHER

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# PALM SUNDAY

*Scene: The hobby horse/strong adult and second toy horse should be set in the doorway of the nave with everyone gathered a little way away. The Owner is standing nearby.*

**Prophet:** Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your ruler is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

*(Disciple 1 and Disciple 2 enter, and each takes the 'rein' of one of the donkeys.)*

**Owner:** Hey! Where are you going with my donkeys?

**Disciple 1:** The Lord has need of them.

**Disciple 2:** We'll bring 'em back. Promise.

**Owner:** You mean Jesus? Go right ahead then!

*(Disciples 1 and 2 run off to the rear of the gathered congregation)*

**Narrator:** The disciples brought the donkey and colt back to Jesus. They put their cloaks on the donkey's back and Jesus sat on them.

*Children line the aisle in preparation for Jesus. Jesus then enters riding. As Jesus approaches, invite all the children to lay their palms into the aisle for the donkey to walk on.*

Pave the Way With Branches

ACS #928 (turn over)

**Narrator:** The crowds gave Jesus a royal welcome as he rode into the city, just like a king. But Jesus was a very different king—he was a king of peace. Not every one understood that. Jesus was not what they were expecting. But the people all shouted:

**All:** “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

**Narrator:** The people in the city weren't sure what was going on.

**Person 1:** Who is this guy? Why is everyone cheering?

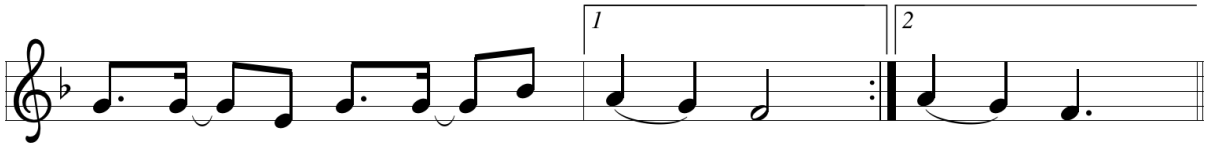
**Person 2:** This is Jesus! God's King! He has come to save us!

**All:** Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!

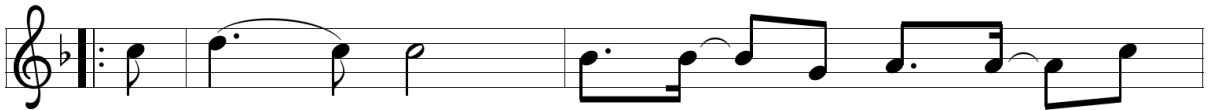
# Pave the Way with Branches



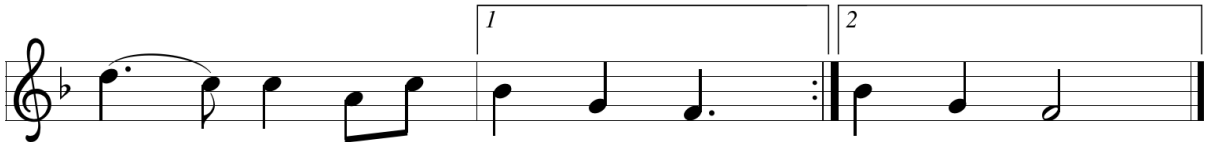
\* Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es.



Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na.



Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -



san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace.

*\*Additional verses ad lib.:*

Release for the captives . . .

Hope for the downtrod . . .

Land for the landless . . .

Debts are forgiven . . .

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957

Music: PAVE THE WAY, Bret Hesla

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