

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 27:11-54

<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!"

## Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday April 2, 2023

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

*Matthew 21:9*

### St. Paul's Lutheran Church

#### Sunday Service at 9:30 AM

2009 South Garfield Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754

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## Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am

Newcomers among us are invited to participate in every aspect of our worship.

Any questions? Please ask.

### News and Needs

- **Today is Palm Sunday, also known as Sunday of the Passion.** We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all, we are invited into the promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. **The Lord's Supper**, our sharing of the bread and wine as Jesus invites us to do, is open to all who accept the presence of Jesus in this simple meal. We continue to use pre-filled communion chalices for a sanitary, safe, and traditional communion experience.
- **Palm Sunday also starts Holy Week.** Please take some flyers with our Holy Week Schedule and distribute them to friends and neighbors. Also, please note that we will be open from 3-5pm for quiet prayer, followed by a worship service at 6:30pm. However, we will only be open for quiet prayer on Good Friday from 3-5pm. We encourage you to come to Trinity Faith's service in our sanctuary at 7pm or to participate in online worship via the Synod website.
- **We welcome Pastor David Berkedal as regular preacher and worship leader at St. Paul's.** Pastor Berkedal will be working on **Thursdays, from 10:00 am. to 4:00 pm.** in Monterey Park to help us develop the congregation's ministry and outreach. He and his wife, Rev. Sally Welch began a Youtube Channel, "Streams of Living Waters" to provide connection and encouragement and an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be Christian during times of isolation. Each video has been matched with a podcast on their channel and a blog entry. You may send an email to Pastor Berkedal at [dberkedal@gmail.com](mailto:dberkedal@gmail.com) for links to all three or visit our website ([stpaulsmpk.org](http://stpaulsmpk.org)).
- **Coffee Hour & Fellowship will be held in the lounge following today's service.** To get to the lounge from the sanctuary, please exit the glass doors at the back, go through the glass doors on the right and straight ahead to the open door of the lounge. Today's refreshments are provided by the pantry.
- **Christ in Our Home booklets for April, May and June are available on the back table.**
- **Church Council will meet on Thursday, April 6th from 10am-noon in the Lounge.** If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please tell Jean Sais.
- **Next week is Easter Sunday!** Today is the last day to submit the lily donation slips for your name to be printed in next week's bulletin. If you would like to bring a lily on Easter Sunday, you are more than welcome to do so!
- **Following service on Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt on the Meher Montessori playground.** We ask that you bring your own baskets to collect eggs and to be respectful of the Meher Property by not stepping on the plants or leaving trash behind. You are more than welcome to take Easter pictures in the Meher Courtyard.
- **On Saturday, April 22nd, the Monterey Park Pastors Coalition will be sponsoring a Prayer Walk in Barnes Park from 10am-noon.** We will meet at the picnic shelters in the park at 9:45am. Bring friends and family to walk with us, as we participate in prayer and show our solidarity as residents and neighbors of Monterey Park! For any questions, please contact Ed or Jean Sais.

## 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 awakens— awakens 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; 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?

## SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## PSALM 31:9-16

<sup>9</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. <sup>10</sup>For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away. <sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. <sup>12</sup>I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. <sup>13</sup>For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around!—as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. <sup>14</sup>But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." <sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. <sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

## Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Pray for these we know to be in need of resolution, healing, support and comfort:

The Cisneros family; Ivy & John Conklin; Austin Marsh; Ewalani Odachi; Brian Kurihara; George Aspeitia; Jesus Espinoza; Jess Torres; Karen Suarez; Bjorn Landberg; Linda Wilson; Carol & Larry Sullivan; Aki Fukui; Lilly Fukui; Ray Chavira; Pastor David Berkedal & Rev. Sally Welch; Susan & Gene Ramirez; Margarete Schwall; Millie Powell; Renee McCormick; Ron Sahara and his family; Moises Alvarado for the safe return of his dog, Charlie; Renate Kurrle & family; Glen Ambra; Gabrielle Zimmerman; for Rory; for Bonnie; for Ellen; for Rimma's family; Marion Mercer; Meher Montessori School; for churches, may our hearts and doors remain open for those who wish to share the Good News; for our country, our military and first responders; watch over those who are affected by the war in Ukraine; for those struggling with anxiety & mental illness; for our neighbors & the healing of our city.