

April 13, 2025 | 9:30 am  
SUNDAY OF THE PASSION  
PALM SUNDAY

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As children of God and disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate and lift up people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, economic statuses, political affiliation, appearances, family status, and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another.

All, without exception, are welcome in this place.



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BOYERTOWN

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AUTHENTIC WORSHIP † INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS † SACRIFICIAL SERVICE † RADICAL GENEROSITY

# CORE VALUES

**AUTHENTIC  
WORSHIP**



**INTENTIONAL  
RELATIONSHIPS**



**SACRIFICIAL  
SERVICE**



**RADICAL  
GENEROSITY**



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BOYERTOWN

## BAPTISMAL PROMISE

### GIFTS OF DISCIPLESHIP



**LIVE**

among God's faithful people



**HEAR**

the word of God



**SHARE**

in the Lord's Supper



**PROCLAIM**

the good news of God in Christ  
through word and deed



**SERVE**

all people, following the example of Jesus



**STRIVE**

for justice and peace in all the earth

# WELCOME

You are a blessing to us, and we're glad you're here today!

## NEW HERE?

Please do not feel obligated to contribute an offering - you are our guest! Rather, please ask an usher for a Let's Get Acquainted card and drop it in the offering plate.

Restrooms are located on the same level as the sanctuary. Exit the back of the sanctuary, turn left into Parish House, turn left again at ramp and continue midway down hallway. Restrooms are on the right.

Gluten-free communion wafers and grape juice are available at the center aisle.

## WHERE DO MY KIDS GO?

Children are always welcome to worship. Sunday School is offered for children ages 3 through 6th grade. Families are encouraged to begin worship together at 9:30 in the Sanctuary. Children are dismissed from worship and escorted to their classroom, located on the second floor of the Parish House. Children are released to parents at worship conclusion, approximately 10:30 am.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

The importance of prayer is affirmed throughout the Bible. As a church we are committed to pray - your needs are important to us. Prayer request cards can be obtained from an usher and may be filled out and dropped in the offering plate.

### GATHERING TIMES

Sunday | 9:30 am | Sanctuary  
**Worship Celebration with Holy Communion**  
**Livestream on YouTube (St John's ELC Boyertown)**

Thursday | 8:00 pm  
**Service Broadcast on Comcast Channel 98**

### GET CONNECTED

Connect with God, each other and our community! Follow us on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram!



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

<b>Acolyte</b>	Abby Torres	<b>Media</b>	Sarah Eidle
<b>Altar Assistants</b>	Ashley Gheer, John Gheer	<b>Prayer</b>	Mel Roth
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Dierolf, Nancy Edwards	<b>Sound</b>	Shannon Omlor
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Amanda Ehst	<b>Video</b>	Abbe Grofe
<b>Lectors</b>	Amanda Ehst, Tom Engle, Ashley Gheer, John Gheer, Lauren Jones, Mel Roth, Jennifer Schlegel	<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Mervine (organ, piano) Madison Robb (vocals)
<b>Ushers</b>	Mary Kay & Donnie Heimbach, Bonnie & Rick Moatz, Sandy & Terry Wade		



## Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

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### PRELUDE

**All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name**

**arr. Joshua Evanovich**

#### **Handbell Choir**

*under the direction of Jennifer Schlegel*

*Angie Berkosky, Amanda Ehst, Melissa Eidle, Tom Engle, Sarah Everingham, Abbe Grofe, Sue Grofe, Phyllis Kershner, Amy Moyer, Madison Robb, Beth Anne Stork, Kurt Stork*

### VIDEO

***Seeing Jesus, Liturgy of the Palms***

### LITURGY OF THE PALMS

*The congregation may stand.*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Luke 19:28-40**

<sup>28</sup> After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here." <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> They said, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power

that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” <sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **BLESSING OF PALMS**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**


### **PROCESSION**

Let us go forth in peace,


**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The congregation may move up the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. After receiving a palm from an usher, return to your seat by way of the side aisles. Children will process around the sanctuary and on to their Sunday School class while congregants return to their seats.*


*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

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

### 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.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 22:1-23:56**

*The congregation will read in unison the part of the People,  
shown on the screen in bold italics.*

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Bob Machamer**

*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## THE 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.

*The congregation may kneel.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Please verbally add your personal prayer requests*

We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **OFFERING MUSIC**

*The congregation may stand.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

### **The Table**

### **Chris Tomlin**

I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I won't hunger anymore at His table.

Come all you weary, come and find

His yoke is easy, His burden light.

He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night of his betrayal  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and 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 sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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**

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*The congregation may be seated.*

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*All without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Please fill out a communion card and hand to an usher or place in the box at back of sanctuary. Today we receive the sacrament at the altar rail. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available at the center aisle. Return to your seats by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.*

*The congregation may stand.*

### **BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - ered there for me.  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## VIDEO

*Seeing Jesus, Liturgy of the Passion*

## DISMISSAL

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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**GUESTS** are always welcome to the Table!

**MEMBERS** (*two types*)

Voting & Non-voting

**KEEPING MEMBERSHIP SIMPLE**

1. The only way you can ever be removed from the membership roll at St. John's, or any ELCA congregation:
  - You request a transfer
  - You ask to be removed
  - You depart this life
2. Voting members must make a record of having:
  - Filled out a communion card and received the Lord's Supper **ONE** time per year
  - Contributed **ONE** time per year, making sure your name is included



*Holy Week*  
walk the path from  
palms to glory

St. John's Lutheran Church 45 N. Reading Ave. Boyertown

*Palm Sunday*  
April 13  
9:30 am

*Maundy Thursday*  
April 17  
7:00 pm

*Good Friday*  
April 18  
7:00 pm

*Easter*  
April 20  
9:30 am

# Potato Project Seed Cutting

Cut potatoes for the growing season  
harvested in the fall for local food banks.

pick up & cut at home - April 24  
or cut on-site at St. John's - April 26

**more details online**  
**sign up here by April 21**



**IHartHarvest, Inc.**  
A CHRISTIAN FOOD MINISTRY  
<http://www.IHartHarvest.org>  
Ph: 484-648-0381 eMail: [IHH@IHartHarvest.org](mailto:IHH@IHartHarvest.org)

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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### SUNDAY, APRIL 13 – Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday School	Parish House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
10:45 AM	First Holy Communion Training	Sanctuary
10:45 AM	Coffee & Conversation	Lower Level

### MONDAY, APRIL 14

Preschool Closed

5:00 PM	Newsletter Submission	
6:30 PM	Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:30 PM	Optimist Club of Boyertown	Conference Room

### TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Preschool Closed

6:30 PM	Finance Team	Main Office
6:30 PM	Jr. Optimist Club	Conference Room

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Preschool Closed

9:30 AM	Pottstown Soup Kitchen	Pottstown Salvation Army
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### THURSDAY, APRIL 17 – Maundy Thursday

Preschool Closed

10:00 AM	Chestnut Knoll Service	Chestnut Knoll
10:00 AM	Operation 143 Delivery	Off-site
7:00 PM	Worship Celebration, First Communion	Sanctuary
8:00 PM	Worship Broadcast	Comcast Ch 98

### FRIDAY, APRIL 18 – Good Friday

Preschool Closed

7:00 AM	Men's Small Group Bible Study	Telephone Conference
7:00 PM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary

### SATURDAY, APRIL 19

9:00 AM	Benevolence	Conference Room
4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Fellowship Hall/Parking Lot

### SUNDAY, APRIL 20 – Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Sunday

9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Sanctuary
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## PURPOSE STATEMENT

We believe God's purpose for the people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to develop joy-filled children of God who love the Lord and share God's Word.

*We do this by:*

- Maintaining a trusting and welcoming environment.
- Praying daily.
- Reading scripture regularly.
- Sharing our faith through action-based service.
- Encouraging holy conversations.
- Feeding our faith with music.

*With a focus on:*

- Activities that build relationships.
- Worship that is relevant.
- Meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community.

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Pastor Bob Machamer

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Office Hours | Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm | Friday 8:30am - 12:00pm