



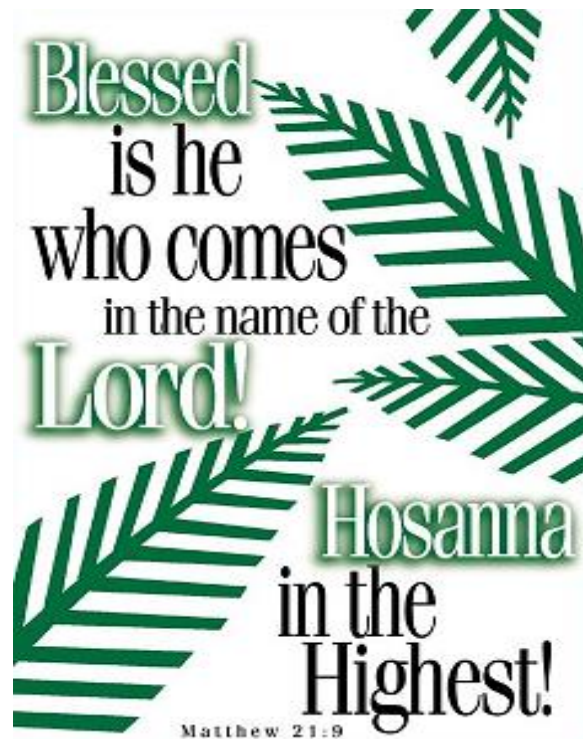
Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Palm / Passion Sunday

***March 24, 2024
9:30 AM***



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Welcome to Worship!

We want you to feel safe so please know that we have 3 units of the best air cleaner on the market in the sanctuary. (A big thank you to Bill Winter for getting our 3rd one repaired!). There is also one running in the lounge for when we have worship, coffee hour, or adult forums there. You are most welcome to wear a mask at worship if you'd like. And if you are a worship leader, please know that there are disposable covers for the microphone available as well.

Today and throughout this week, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is both our triumphant eternal Lord and King and the Suffering Servant who died on the cross, out of his love for and his obedience to God, in order that we, too, might know God's power and love in our daily lives. We, too, are full of paradox: like the disciples, we fervently desire to follow Christ, and yet we find ourselves afraid, betraying, denying, and running away from the God who wants nothing but the love of our hearts and minds, bodies and souls. 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 this paradoxical promise that when we die to ourselves, God will raise us up to new and abundant life in Christ – life such as we have never even imagined before! Thanks be to God who loves us through it all!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES THIS WEEK INCLUDE:

Palm Sunday – 6:00 – an old-fashioned Palm Sunday Service (not the combined Palm/Passion) at the Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue,

with Bishop John R. Thompson of Calvary Temple Christian Center preaching

Holy Monday – 7:00 Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue

with Pastor Yolanda Hernandez of Centro da Vida preaching

Holy Tuesday – 7:00 Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue with Pastor Herron Gaskin of Summerfield United Methodist Church (& CT State Senator) preaching

Holy Wednesday – 12:00 noon – our weekly prayer gathering on zoom and 7:00 Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue

with Pastor James Logan of Messiah Baptist Church preaching

Maundy Thursday – 7:30 Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield with Pastor Marjo preaching

Good Friday – 7:30 Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield

Easter – 9:30 RIGHT HERE AT SALEM

Counting today there are just 4 Sundays left for us to gather together as Salem. If you have decided which congregation God is calling you to join, please give us written notice, either by text, email, or letter no later than April 14th. You may text the church phone 203-336-3300 and Pastor Marjo 203-982-3441, or send an email to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net and marjoanderson@aol.com, or mail a letter to the church at 3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport 06604. For those of you who discern a call to another ELCA congregation, Pastor Marjo will transfer your membership. For those of you who discern a call to a congregation in another denomination, we can't transfer you, but we can give you a letter of good-standing if you so desire.

Gathering

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

GREETING

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “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.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“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.”

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,

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

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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 & 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

Let us go forth in peace

in the name of Christ! Amen!

The assembly is invited to process into the nave as we join together in a song of praise!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 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.

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.

*Text: based on Psalm 8:2, 24:7-10, 118:2, Matthew 21:1-16, Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:29-38, John 12:12-15
 by Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Meter 7 6 7 6 D
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, ST. THEODULPH, by Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635*

CONGREGATIONAL ACCLAMATION FOR PALM SUNDAY

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the highest!**

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God from whom and with whom and to whom we journey!

It is so good to be here!

Thank you for joining us today! Thank you, those of you who are here in person with us!

And thank you, those of you out there in cyber space, wherever – and whenever! – you are!

For those of you who don't know me,

I'm Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the US.

To find out more about our ministry or to contact us,

you can go to our website, SalemBridgeport.org, to our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport, and to our YouTube channel, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT.

Links to our donate page and worship bulletin –

which has both the order of worship and announcements – as well as other resources are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

Today we begin Holy Week

and we invite you to worship every night from tonight thru Friday.

**Tonight at 6, join us at the Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue
for an old-fashioned Palm Sunday celebration**

(not like the combined Palm/Passion service we have this morning)

**On Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday there will be services at 7:00,
again at Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue**

On Maundy Thursday & Good Friday at 7:30

we will be joining Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield

**And next Sunday join us at 9:30 right here at Salem
as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord**

On Wednesday at noon we will also meet on zoom for our weekly prayer gathering.

**And from Monday through Friday you can call in to our weekly noontime prayer line
using the conference line phone number and access code printed on our calendar.**

Links to the above events are found on our calendar at SalemBridgeport.org

**For more details on these announcements or to hear about other upcoming events
please see our worship bulletin at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.**

Any other announcements? prayer requests? God-sightings?

Then let's begin our worship with prayer:

God, we praise you because you are the King of All Creation!

Jesus, we praise you because you are the King of Love!

Holy Spirit, we praise you

because you have made us kings and priests to serve the King of kings!

We open now our hearts and souls, our minds and bodies to your holy presence.

Transform us this very day into the people you have called us to be!

We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit. **Amen**

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 50:4-9a

- ⁴The 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 wakens —
wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.
- ⁶I 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.
- ⁷The 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;
- ⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.
- ^{9a}**It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?**

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 31:9-16

- ⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
- ¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
- ¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- ¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- ¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
- ¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, “You are my God.
- ¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

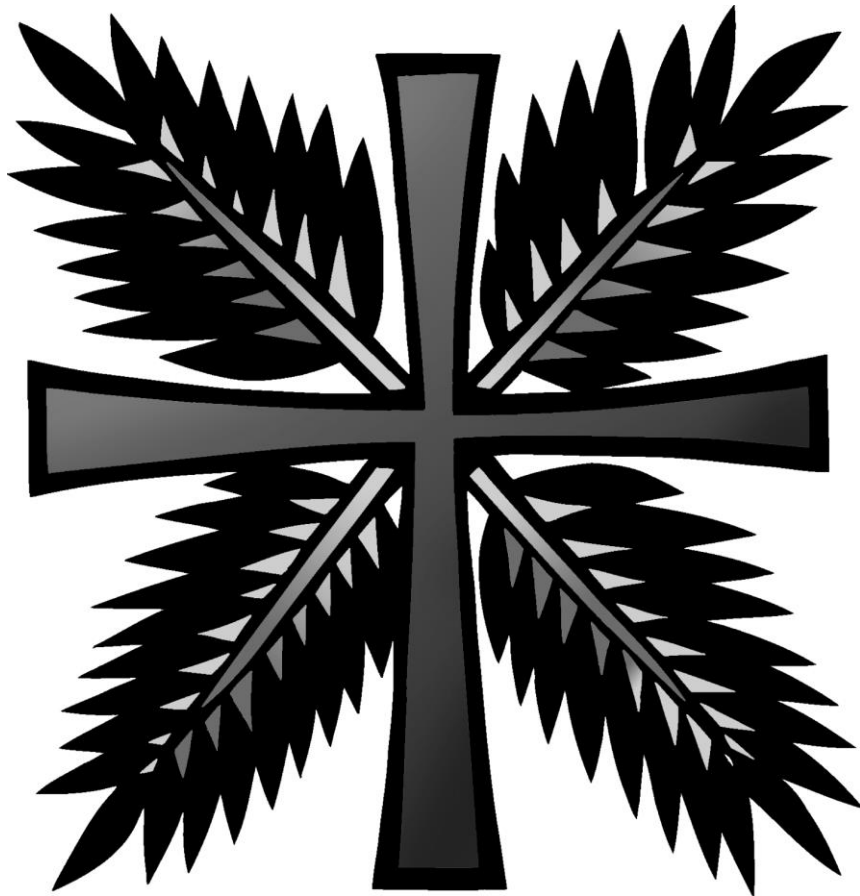
Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven & on earth & under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God! Word of Life! Thanks be to God!



THE PASSION ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK

The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.

Pastor: Our Palm Sunday celebration is over.
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.
The Passion of our Lord, according to Saint Mark.

Narrator: It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread.
The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way
to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

People: **"Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."**

Narrator: While 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.
But some were there who said to one another in anger,

People: **"Why was the ointment wasted in this way?
For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii,
and the money given to the poor."**

Narrator: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

Jesus: "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me.
For you always have the poor with you,
and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish;
but you will not always have me.
She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial.
Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world,
what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Narrator: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve,
went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them.
When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money.
So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.
On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed,
his disciples said to him,

People: **"Where do you want us to go and make the preparations
for you to eat the Passover?"**

Narrator: So he sent two of his disciples, saying...

Jesus: Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

Narrator: So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

Jesus: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

Narrator: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

***People:* "Surely, not I?"**

Jesus: ... "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

Narrator: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

Jesus: "Take; this is my body."

Narrator: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it, [saying]....:

Jesus: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Narrator: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said...

Jesus: "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

Narrator: Peter said to him,

Peter: "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

Jesus: ... "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

Peter: (*vehemently*) "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

Narrator: And all of them said the same. They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

Jesus: "Sit here while I pray."

Narrator: He took with him Peter and James and John,
and began to be distressed and agitated, and ... said ...

Jesus: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

Narrator: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground
and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him,

Jesus: ... "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me;
yet, not what I want, but what you want."

Narrator: He came and found them sleeping; and ... said to Peter,

Jesus: "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?
Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;
the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Narrator: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.
And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy;
and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

Jesus: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough!
The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Narrator: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived;
and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs,
from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.
Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

Narrator: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,
:
: "Rabbi!"

Narrator: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.
But one of those who stood near drew his sword
and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?
Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me.
But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

Narrator: All of them deserted him and fled.
A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth.
They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.
They took Jesus to the high priest;
and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.
Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest;
and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.
Now the chief priests and the whole council
were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none.
For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree.
Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

People: We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'

Narrator: But even on this point their testimony did not agree.
Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

High Priest: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

Narrator: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

High Priest: Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

Jesus: "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

Narrator: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest: "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

Narrator: All of them condemned him as deserving death.
Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

People: "Prophecy!"

Narrator: The guards also took him over and beat him.
While Peter was below in the courtyard,
one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by.
When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

Servant-Girl: "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

Peter: ... "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

Narrator: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed.
And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,
: "This man is one of them."

Narrator: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

People: "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

Narrator: But he began to curse, and ... swore an oath,

Peter: "I do not know this man you are talking about."

Narrator: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time.
Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,
"Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."
And he broke down and wept.
As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation
with the elders and scribes and the whole council.
They bound Jesus, led him away, & handed him over to Pilate, [who] ... asked him,

Pilate: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus: ... "You say so."

Narrator: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

Pilate: "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

Narrator: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.
Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them,
anyone for whom they asked.
Now a man called Barabbas was in prison
with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.
So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom.
Then he answered them,

Pilate: "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

Narrator: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.
But the chief priests stirred up the crowd
to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

Pilate: "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

People: ... **"Crucify him!"**

Pilate: ... "Why, what evil has he done?"

People: ... **"Crucify him!"**

Narrator: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them;
and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.
Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace
(that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort.
And they clothed him in a purple cloak;
and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.
And they began saluting him,

People: **"Hail, King of the Jews!"**

Narrator: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him,
and knelt down in homage to him.
After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak
and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.
They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country,
to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.
Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha
(which means the place of a skull).
And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.
And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them,
casting lots to decide what each should take.
It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.
The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."
And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.
Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

People: "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

Narrator: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

People: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

Narrator: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out ...

Jesus: [loudly] "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

Narrator: which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

People: "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

Narrator: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Bystander: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Narrator: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

Centurion: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Narrator: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

This is the Passion of Our Lord.

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR LENT

(from The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa and from Indonesia)

As people of the household of God, in faith, and love, and with goodwill to all,
let us in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
give ourselves afresh to him and to one another in joyous covenant,
promising to walk together with God and one another.

We believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, & to free us from all forms of oppression.

We believe in the Spirit of God,

who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth.

We believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.

We do not believe in the right of the strongest, nor in the power of oppression.

We believe in human rights, in the solidarity of all people.

We denounce, stand, and work against racism,

in the power that comes from wealth & privilege,

or in any established order that enslaves.

We believe that all people are equally human,

that order based on violence and injustice is not order.

We do not believe that hunger and poverty are inevitable and peace unattainable.

We dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform,

fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth

where justice and peace will flourish.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

As members and friends of Salem Church, let us remind ourselves who we are:

We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.

**In response to God's transforming love, we share our joy through praise and service,
that we may encounter God, build relationships, and change lives.**

May it be so!

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things,
let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

So they can be heard online, these petitions will be offered by the leaders at the microphones.

Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week.
Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake.
Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the NAACP of Greater Bridgeport,
Scouting programs locally and around the world,
and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land,
We pray for abundant resources & full funding for Fairchild Wheeler High School & all schools
that they might have arts, sciences, performing arts, music, dance, sports, and extra-curriculars,
as well as excellent teachers, administration, and staff.
And we pray for Salem members & their families.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth.
Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers.
We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Establish peace and justice among the nations.
Hold to account any with authority to judge others.
Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten.
Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation.
We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care,
that they may know your love.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give energy and joy to our pastor and lay leaders. Watch over those who travel.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed One, our times are in your hand.
Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life.
We give thanks for the courage of Oscar Arnulfo Romero, bishop and martyr,
whom we commemorate today.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are invited to offer your own prayer petition at this time, either silently or aloud.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

Thanksgiving



OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you said, "Give and it will be given to you...
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

**Give us the confidence to cheerfully give our tithes & offerings of time, talent & treasure
to your work in this place, trusting that you will provide abundantly for all our needs.
We pray this in the power of your Spirit. Amen**

OFFERING INVITATION

In response to God's grace, it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings.
We are grateful for your generosity, which not only is an exercise of and witness to your faith, but
which funds our ministry together here at Salem.

If you are a member of another congregation, we encourage you to give to it first,
but invite you to contribute to our ministry also
so that we can continue to take our worship online
as a witness to the power and love of the amazing God we serve.
Simply go to the menu on our website at SalemBridgeport.org and click "donate"
or scan the QR code here in our Sunday worship program
with a QR reader on your smart phone which will take you to that page.

OFFERTORY SONG

There Is a Redeemer

(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book, Worship & Praise # 140)

Verse 1 There is a Redeemer Jesus God's own Son Precious Lamb of God Messiah Holy One

**Chorus Thank You O my Father For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit Till the work on earth is done**

**Verse 2 Jesus my Redeemer name above all names
Precious Lamb of God Messiah O for sinners slain**

**Verse 3 When I stand in glory I will see His face
There I'll serve my King forever In that holy place**

CCLI Song # 11483 by Keith Green

Text: based on Isaiah 53:4-5, John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 1 Peter 1:18-21; Meter Irregular

Tune: GREEN

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Ears To Hear (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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*Performance by Virtual Choir, under the direction of Florentin Tise, 05/04/20
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzZK8o9xd-I> [4:03]*

Sending

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we begin Holy Week

and we invite you to worship every night from tonight thru Friday.

**Tonight at 6, join us at the Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue
for an old-fashioned Palm Sunday celebration**

(not like the combined Palm/Passion service we have this morning)

**On Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday there will be services at 7:00,
again at Cathedral of Faith, 2319 Fairfield Avenue**

On Maundy Thursday & Good Friday at 7:30

we will be joining Our Saviour's Lutheran, 160 Hill Farm Rd, Fairfield

**And next Sunday join us at 9:30 right here at Salem
as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord**

On Wednesday at noon we will also meet on zoom for our weekly prayer gathering.

**And from Monday through Friday you can call in to our weekly noontime prayer line
using the conference line phone number and access code printed on our calendar.**

Links to the above events are found on our calendar at SalemBridgeport.org

**For more details on these announcements or to hear about other upcoming events
please see our worship bulletin at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.**

THANK YOU

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,

I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us.
I hope you will join us again.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray with me,
you can reach me through Salem's website or Facebook page.

BLESSING

As we say good-bye to our online worshippers,

I'd like to offer to all who are worshipping with us, both in-person and in cyberspace,
this blessing based on our reading today from Psalm 31:

Trust in God, for your times are in God's hand.

God will rescue you from the hands of your enemies and from those who persecute you.

God's face will shine upon his servants and God's steadfast love will save you.

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may stand if you so desire and make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen**

God's love is infinite and unconditional.

As individuals we have only to accept it and live in its light.

The moment we confess, we are forgiven.

As together we gather for worship, so together we confess our sins as our community,
and together we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess:

that too often we focus on the things we lack,

that too often we are attached to our own personal agendas,

that too often we insist on doing things our own way,

that too often we are oblivious to the needs for justice around us.

God who has heard our confession both forgives and forgets every failing. **Amen!**

Loving God, teach us:

to see your amazing abundance rather than any lack,

to listen more - to you and to each other - and to talk less,

to trust in your power and not our own,

to build relationships with those who are not like us.

God who has given us the will to do these things ✙

graciously gives us the power to perform them. **Amen!**

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

God be with you!

And also with you!

Open your hearts!

We open them to God and one another!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

It is right to give God thanks & praise!

In the night in which he was betrayed....

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.

Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen

The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you.

*During communion, you may take your communion elements during worship
or hold on to your kit until you get home.*

If you take the elements inside the church, open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet.

After the service, please dispose of your own kit either in a waste receptacle at church or at home.

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace! **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 431)*

**O Christ, what can it mean for us to claim you as our king?
What royal face have you revealed whose praise the church would sing?
Aspiring not to glory's height, to power, wealth and fame,
you walked a diff'rent, lowly way, another's will your aim.**

**You came, the image of our God, to heal and to forgive,
to shed your blood for sinner's sake that we might rise and live.
To break the law of death you came, the law of love to bring:
a diff'rent rule of righteousness, a diff'rent kind of king.**

**Though some would make their greatness felt and lord it over all,
you said the first must be the last and service be our call.
O Christ, in workplace, church, and home, let none to power cling;
for still, through us, you come to serve, a diff'rent kind of king.**

**You chose a humble human form and shunned the world's renown;
you died for us upon a cross with thorns your only crown.
But still, beyond the span of years, our glad hosannas ring,
for now at God's right hand you reign, a diff'rent kind of king!**

Text: based on Revelation 1:4-8 by Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939; Meter C M D

Music: ALL SAINTS NEW by Henry S. Cutler, 1824-1902

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Performance by Tim McNabb, Halifax Lutheran Church, 10/01/21

649/655 in our hymn series

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wu7Q3d6tt-I> [2:44]

DISMISSAL

**Go with unwavering faith and hope to follow Christ your King!
Thanks be to God!**

PEACE

**As Christ reconciles us with God,
let us be reconciled with each other by sharing the peace of the Lord!
The peace of the Lord be with you always!**

And also with you!

Please share that peace!!

POSTLUDE SONG

Now Behold the Lamb

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
This Far by Faith # 128 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 341)*

Now behold the Lamb, the precious Lamb of God,
who bore all my sin, that I may live again:
the precious Lamb of God.

Holy is the Lamb, the precious Lamb of God.
Why you love me so, Lord, I shall never know;
the precious Lamb of God.

Thank you for the Lamb, the precious Lamb of God.
Because of your grace I can finish the race;
the precious Lamb of God.

*Text: based on John 1:29, 36, 2 Corinthians 4:6, 2 Timothy 4:7, Hebrews 12:1
by Kirk Franklin, b. 1970; Meter 5 6 5 6 6*

Music: NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB by Kirk Franklin; arr. Keith Hampton, b. 1957

Text and music © 1996 Lilly Mack Music

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*Performed by Kenedi Wilson & Natalie Harris & Choir of Christian Life Center, Heath, OH
12/18/21; to learn more and/or to support this ministry, go to at <https://clcheath.com>
as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOmJ2id267g> [5:31]*

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980 **March 24**

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord **March 25**

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824 **March 29**

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

CREDITS

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Announcements

You are invited to join us for a Celebratory Service on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., as we gather together to rejoice and remember the 137 years of our congregation's life and service in Bridgeport, CT. Although Salem will be concluding its ministry (with a leave-taking service on April 14), we have much to celebrate and be thankful for during our time together in this place. We hope you can join us on this special occasion. Our worship will be enriched by your participation since you have been a part of God's ministry at Salem over the years. Our service will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment when you'll have the chance to renew relationships and share reminisces. If you will be able to join us, please text or call the church office at 203-336-3300 or email the church at salemsec123@sbcglobal.net. Your response by Saturday, March 30th would be appreciated.

You are invited to join members of the New England Synod on the first Monday and third Thursday of the month 7:15-7:45ish on zoom as we undergird the anti-racism work of our synod with prayer. The next date is Monday April 1. The link is on Salem's calendar.

The Need is Great - You Can Help. Over 10 percent of Connecticut adults say they do not have enough money to buy food. According to estimates from Feeding America, more than 380,000 Connecticut residents struggle with hunger; more than 83,000 children are food insecure. These people include your neighbors. You can make a difference. You can help **"Refill the Pantries."** Ten collections are planned in 2024 to support five food pantries in the area. Last year's nine food drives contributed 17,700 pounds of food and over \$12,000 to the pantries. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 6.** Our first collection will be at the Stop&Shop at 4531 Main Street, Bridgeport, for the Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry. Volunteer time slots are available 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, and 3-5:00. You can sign up at <https://volunteersignup.org/YXRFK> or by contacting Rich Lansing at (203) 520-3751 or rlansing@optonline.com.

While there will be no Inner-View Chat & Chew this month, please remember to put 11:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of the month on your calendar so that you won't miss the opportunity to join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café for their monthly Inner-View Chat and Chew. The next date is April 20. For more info or to RSVP, please contact "Momma J" at 203-366-6778 or jharris524@yahoo.com.

Like our prayer breakfasts, a lunch is held each month to build relationships among Lutheran and other congregations in our area at noon at Old Towne Restaurant in Trumbull. **The next date is April 27.** If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Bruce Tomasko, bltomasko@yahoo.com.

Camp Calumet is hosting the first Fruits & Roots midweek adult retreat. The retreat will be April 22-25, 2024. The focus will be on one of the fruits of the Spirit, JOY, as we meet for theme sessions led by Rev. Maren Tirabassi, a pastor, poet, and mystery writer from Kittery, Maine. Deacon Judy Smith will be coordinating the program, including devotions and retreat activities. Gary Benevides, long time Calumet summer guest in our campground and music director at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vernon, CT, will be our retreat guest musician. Opportunities are already scheduled to experience various art media facilitated by guest artists in Calumet's new Pippi Art Space in the Oasis and/or to participate in writing workshops led by Rev. Tirabassi. On Monday evening we will enjoy and participate in a joyful concert by the Funky Divas of Gospel who will get our feet tapping, our hands clapping, and our voices singing with their gospel, soul, and rock music rooted in universal stories. Our Wednesday evening program "Maple, New Hampshire's Medicine of Connection" with Vermont theologian, Dr. Damian Costello, will connect us to the land, our ancestors, and all that surrounds us. We will learn about indigenous wisdom, a communal medicine of connection. We are grateful to the New Hampshire Humanities to Go Program for sponsoring this evening program open to the public.

We encourage you to grow in your relationship with God. And what better way than through talking to God and listening to God? That's exactly what happens when we pray and when we read & study scripture. We can do those things on our own, of course, but when we do them together it's far more impactful – kind of like addition and multiplication. Praying and studying on our own is like adding $4 + 4$ which gives you 8, but praying and studying together is like multiplying 4×4 which gives you 16. Certainly, we are "better together".

And so we invite you to join us for:

*** our prayer line at noon Monday-Friday** for a time of prayer. You can pray silently and anonymously, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers. The number 681-999-0232, access code 673980#, is also listed on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org.

*** our weekly Prayer Gathering Wednesdays at noon on zoom.** The zoom link is on Salem's calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . If you cannot access zoom just let Pastor Marjo or Jeanette Harris know and you can join one of us via speakerphone; and

*** our evening Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:00 on zoom as we continue to make our way through the book of Romans.** Due to Pastor Marjo's and Jeanette Harris' schedules we will only be meeting some Wednesdays during Lent, so please check the calendar under the Resources tab at SalemBridgeport.org . You'll find the zoom link there, and, if you cannot access zoom, just let us know and you can join one of us via speakerphone.

You have another opportunity for Bible Study as well on zoom on Tuesday evenings 7:30-8:30. This group, led by Pastor Rip Hoffman, looks at the gospel for the coming Sunday. For the link, contact Pastor Marjo or Pastor Hoffman.

You are invited to join the Anti-Racism Accountability Group hosted by Pastor Marjo and Jeanette Harris on Mondays 4:00-5:00 on zoom. The group began in the fall of 2020 as a response of our Southern CT Lutheran pastors to the murder of George Floyd, but has grown into a diverse group that includes people who are White and Black, Christian, Jewish, Unitarian, and Rastafarian, clergy and lay, and from CT, MA, and DE. Some come every week while others drop in as their schedule permits. The link is on Salem's calendar, so please drop in and see what God is doing to help us fulfill our baptismal call to work for justice!

As Salem continues its ministry through April, expenses continue as well. If we are to give the maximum amount of our assets, we are depending on YOU to fulfill your pledge for this year & to continue your giving in 2024. While we can cover expenses from our endowment, we would much rather be able to celebrate the commitment and generosity of each & every one of our members!

As important as your financial contributions are, please remember that YOU are even more important than your money! Showing up for prayer, Bible study, Salem activities, and ecumenical events – either in person or on zoom or on conference calls – is just as impactful and sometimes more impactful than writing a check, so please think about that when you are invited to participate in events listed in these announcement pages!

Do you want to talk or pray with your pastor? Well, just like you call your doctor or dentist to schedule an annual wellness visit or a visit to deal with a particular issue, you can contact Pastor Marjo via text or phone at 203-982-3441, or through Office Manager Karl Kraft via text at 203-336-3300 or email at salemsec123@sbcglobal.net . Our bodies are intimately connected with our minds and hearts and spirits, so the health of one part impacts the health of the other parts.

- 1. Get your annual “spiritual”** – just the way you get your annual physical.
Call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 to arrange a time to discuss how you are, and let her know how she can pray for you.
Or if you prefer to use email to set something up, send your email to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net.
- 2. Call in to our prayer line at 681-999-0232 using access code 673980# at noon Mon-Fri** for prayer. You can pray silently & anonymously, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own.
OR join our weekly prayer gathering on Zoom, Wednesdays at noon, at this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82882777326?pwd=VCtObFRPOGI3cTR3eII2ZmtiZEpadz09>
- 3. Begin a fast** or establish a new healthier habit.
- 4. Commit yourself to some new work of charity and one new work of justice.**
If you're wondering what the difference is, it's like this.
If people are hungry and you give them fish, that's CHARITY.
If people are hungry and you teach them to fish, that's EMPOWERMENT.
If people are hungry and you work to change laws so that they receive high enough wages from their jobs so they can afford to buy fish, that's JUSTICE.
If you're not sure how to “do justice” as God commands through the Prophet Micah (6:8), Pastor Marjo can offer suggestions.

The Interdenominational Alliance of Greater Bridgeport and Vicinity



Holy Week Services

March 24-29, 2024
Nightly

Cathedral of Faith
2319 Fairfield Ave
Bridgeport, CT 06605



Pastor William D.
McCullough,
President

 \$IMABPT

Sun.
Mar. 24
*6:00PM



Bishop John R.
Thompson-
Calvary Temple
Christian
Center

Mon.
Mar. 25
7:00PM



Pastor
Yolanda
Hernandez-
Centro da Vida

Tues.
Mar. 26
7:00PM



Pastor Herron
Gaskin-
Summerfield
United Methodist
Church

Wed.
Mar. 27
7:00PM



Pastor James
Logan- Messiah
Baptist Church

Thurs.
Mar. 28
7:00PM



Bishop Willie
Lee Johnson-
English Chapel
Cathedral of
Miracles

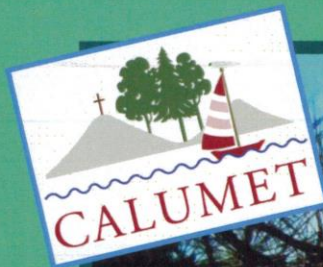
Fri.
Mar. 29
7:00PM



Bishop Danny
Bland-
Revival
Church



www.facebook.com/ima.bridgeport
[www.youtube.com- IMA Bridgeport](https://www.youtube.com/IMA Bridgeport)



Fruits & Roots at Calumet

April 22-25

A Midweek Retreat for Adults

Optional
no-cost coach bus for
guests from
southern New
England! We're
giving it a try.

*Reflect by the lake as we explore JOY –
a fruit of the Spirit!*