

Grace Family Weekly Message

30 March 2023



ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY, THE 2nd OF APRIL 2023.

The Gospel reading is John 11:1-45. (See page 3 for more information)

THERE IS SUNDAY SCHOOL AND COFFEE FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAY AT 9:45. MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP, WITH COMMUNION AND THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR STARTS AT 7:30 PM ON THURSDAY. THE GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP STARTS AT 7:30 PM ON FRIDAY.

A BIBLE STUDY ABOUT JESUS' TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

In this week's Bible Study, in our current "The Story of Jesus" series, we will consider a Palm Sunday event, Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, this time by looking at the Gospel of John's somewhat different version of this occasion.

John 12:9-16a (NIV)

⁹Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

¹⁰So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him. ¹²The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵"Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶At first his disciples did not understand all this.

All four Gospels tell the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This event in the Jesus Story took place in the days before Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and the Last Supper. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem marks the beginning of his Passion, Jesus' suffering, and death. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell the traditional story about the entry of the Messianic king who rode into Jerusalem on a humble donkey, as prophesied by Zechariah, to the acclaim of his disciples, followers, and Festival pilgrims. The Gospel of John also reports Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, but John said the crowd that gathered to laud him did so because he raised Lazarus from the dead. John also reported how the chief priests were already planning to kill Jesus and Lazarus.

John's version uses several Biblical sources to explain parts of this story. Those scriptures will also help us understand what Jesus' entry into Jerusalem means. The



Jesus Enters Jerusalem, a painting by 15th century Alsatian artist Martin Schongauer.

crowds that gathered were coming to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Festival. The Torah mandated that Jewish men who were able must make pilgrimages to Jerusalem to celebrate Jewish religious festivals and offer sacrifices at the Temple. Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem occurred as Jews gathered for the Passover (John 13:1).

John tells us "**a large crowd**" came to meet Jesus not only because they knew about him, but also because they "**came to see Lazarus whom (Jesus) had raised from the dead**" (v12:9). The story of how Lazarus died and was raised by Jesus after four days was the theme of last Sunday's Gospel lesson: "**When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice,**

"Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out..." (John 11:43). The crowds apparently believed that if Jesus could raise someone from the dead, he could perform even greater acts of deliverance.

John's story continued by explaining how the people reacted: "**They took palm branches and went out to meet (Jesus), shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!"**" (v. 12:13). Key words in this verse tells us a lot about the expectations of the crowd. They carried palms, shouted "Hosanna" and addressed Jesus as the "king of Israel." These were expressions of Jewish nationalism. In the second century BCE, when the Jewish Maccabees defeated the Greek Seleucids, who ruled Judea at that time, the book of I Maccabees reported, "**The Jews made their entry (into Jerusalem)...with acclamations and carrying palms...since a great enemy had been crushed and thrown out of Israel**" (v13:51). Now the Jews were acclaiming a savior whom they hoped would do the same thing to the Romans.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all say Jesus directed the disciples to go find a donkey for him to ride. John simply says, "**¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it.**" The verse that follows in John is an almost exact quote of Zechariah 9:9, which is a mainstay of Old Testament Messianic prophecies.

***Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.***

Having a new king arrive while riding on a donkey or mule began a thousand years earlier when King David directed his priest Zadok and prophet Nathan to "**have Solomon my son mount my own mule and take him down to Gihon**" (I Kings 1:33) where Solomon was anointed as the new king and David's successor. By riding into Jerusalem on a lowly donkey, Jesus fulfilled this Messianic prophecy; he was openly declaring to the Jewish people that he was the Messiah they were expecting.

John said the "**disciples did not understand all this.**" What they did not understand was the contradiction between the people's expectation of a political Messiah, someone who would deliver them from the Romans, and Jesus' mission to be a spiritual Messiah, someone who was destined to suffer and die to deliver the people

from their sins. We will see how in a few days, after Jesus refused to lead the people in a revolt against the Romans, that their “*Hosannas*” would turn to demands to “*Crucify, crucify him*” (Luke 23:21).

WEEKLY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

SUNDAY WORSHIP. This coming Sunday, the 2nd of April, is Palm Sunday (Sunday of the Passion). The Gospel reading is Matthew 26:14-27, which is the story Judas plotting to betray Jesus. Communion will be served. The liturgical color is purple. Pastor Jaci and Church Musician Bobbie Bean will conduct this service.

CHOOSE HOW YOU WORSHIP. At Grace, you can worship in a traditional setting in the Sanctuary, or you can participate in worship while remaining in your vehicle and tuning your radio to FM 94.1. Grace’s worship services are broadcast on FM 94.1.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN WITH US IN WORSHIPPING GOD
AS WE CONTINUE ON OUR LENTEN JOURNEYS**

© **PRAYER CONCERNS.** Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

The Family of Dean Crandall

Sharon Akenberger Bitter, Linda Ladd, Laura Binns, Amber Barbour, Pat Bowe, Pastor Marcus Lohrmann (retired Synod Bishop), Graham Jacobs (infant son of David & Brielle Jacobs), Marilyn Goeckerman, Todd Hablitzl, Laurie Pangle, Tom & Cheryl Hoot, Matthew Rolf, Max Shiple, Rosemary Jones, Steve, Jody Angelone, Mandi Palmer, LaVerne Edwards, Bev Burroughs, Carol Jacob, Bethany Collier, Leslee Bundy, Tom Szor, Shelly Sherman, Barbara Harger, Patricia Morral, Karen Southwyck, Dustin Schmidt, Chris Marquardt, Stephen Andrew, Kelly Troyer, Nadine Crisologos, members of the Grace family who reside in nursing homes including Jim Flick (Commons of Providence, Sandusky), Donna Foss (Parkcliff), Sandy Cutchall (Genoa), and Ruth Hammel (Genoa), and members of the Grace family and their colleagues who serve in the Armed Forces.

If you know of someone to add to the prayer list, please inform Pastor Jaci or the Church Office.

© **DEAN CRANDALL MEMORIAL SERVICE.** The Memorial Service for Dean was conducted at Grace on the 25th of March. Thank you to all of Grace’s members who assisted by serving as Deacons during the service or who set up and took down the Fellowship Hall for the funeral meal and to those who assisted with the serving of the funeral meal. Thank you especially to the Crandall family for making the flowers that graced the Sanctuary during the Memorial Service available for the Sunday worship that followed. Please continue to keep Marilyn and the members of Dean’s family in your prayers.

© **ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING LAST WEEK.** 61 people attended worship at Grace on Sunday, the 26th of March. Last Sunday’s offering total will be

available next week. In order to fully fund the budget adopted by the congregation in November, weekly offerings need to average \$2,736. After 12 weeks in 2023, average offerings are slightly ahead of this budget goal. Thank you to all members of the Grace Family who attend worship and contribute regular offerings.

© **PASSING OF THE PEACE.** *Grace members cherish its tradition of a long Passing of the Peace where worshippers actively greet, shake hands with, or embrace everyone present. This process was also stopped at the start of the covid pandemic. We currently do the Passing of the Peace with worshippers remaining in place while passing the peace with spoken words and gestures. The Council discussed whether the congregation is ready to change this, perhaps by encouraging worshippers to move about while greeting others without making physical contact. The Council did not make any decisions but did refer this to the Board of Worship which will meet on the 18th of April. If you have an opinion on whether or how Grace's Passing of the Peace should be changed, please pass it on to Worship Chair Joan Eckermann or Gary Anderson.*

© **EDUCATION UPDATE:** Children in grades K-6 meet on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:45 AM. In addition, coffee is available in the Fellowship Hall, also beginning at 9:45 AM. You are invited to join the Sunday School children on April 2nd, to assemble Easter baskets for our homebound friends. The Easter Project will include making Easter cards for our Operation Oreo servicemen. Please plan on joining us at 9:45 AM on both days.

© **2023 LENTEN OFFERINGS.** This year's Lenten Offerings will be dedicated to the ELCA Good Gifts Program for the purchase of water filters. Each \$30.00 contribution buys one ceramic water filter that is capable of purifying water without electricity or chemicals. A water filter is a powerful, reliable way to provide safe water when it's needed most.

© **WORSHIP PLANS FOR LENT.** The fifth of five Lenten Soup Suppers and Mid-week prayer services on the 29th of March was attended by 18 persons. SAM Jeannine Grimm's message highlighted the loneliness that Jesus suffered on the cross. Upcoming worship serves at Grace now include:

- 2 April. **Palm Sunday**, worship, with communion, preceded by a palm procession that will begin in the Narthex, 10:30 AM.
- 6 April. **Maundy Thursday**, worship with communion and the stripping of the altar, 7:30 PM.
- 7 April. **Good Friday**, Service of the Nails, 7:30 PM.
- 9 April, **Easter Sunday**, worship with communion, 10:30 AM.
- 28 May, **Pentecost Sunday**, worship with communion, 10:30 AM. This will be the last Sunday when the Choir is scheduled to sing until September.

UPCOMING ACTIVITES AND EVENTS AT GRACE			
Date	Event	Time	Location
2 April, Sunday	Christian Education for Children, K-6	9:45 AM	Sunday School Room

2 April, Sunday	Adult Coffee Hour	9:45 AM	Fellowship Hall
2 April, Sunday	Board of Property	9:30 AM	Conference Room
6 April, Thursday	Maundy Thursday Worship	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
7 April, Friday	Good Friday Worship	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
18 April, Tuesday	Board of Worship	8:00 PM	Conference Room
20 April, Thursday	Council Meeting	7:00 PM	Conference Room
9 May, Tuesday	Board of Congregational Life	6:00 PM	Grace
11 May, Thursday	Funeral Planning Workshop	6:00 PM	Grace
Regular Weekly Events:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday mornings, at 10:30 AM, Worship, with communion (<i>in the Sanctuary</i>) • Tuesday evenings, at 7:00 PM, Choir Practice 			

© **FUNERAL PLANNING WORKSHOP.** Grace will host a Funeral Planning Workshop on Thursday, the 11th of May that will be conducted by Crosser & Priesman Funeral Home of Oak Harbor and Port Clinton. An announcement is posted on page 7. Note that advance registrations are requested (419-862-3331).

© **OPERATION OREO.** Please keep all military personnel in your prayers, but especially: 2LT Eli Gerkenmeyer, U. S. Air Force; SSG Stephen Simkus, U. S. Army Special Forces, and Cadet Julian Sanchez, U. S. Military Academy.

- Anyone wishing to donate to Operation Oreo to help offset the cost of shipping and also the contents of the Goody boxes -- Just mark "Op Oreo" on the memo line of your check.
- If you have a name to add to our list or if you have any questions about Operation Oreo, please contact Jennifer Marquardt

© **MILLERS RECEIPTS.** Members of the Grace Family who shop at Miller's New Market Grocery in Genoa should continue to keep their receipts and give them to Marilyn Crandall who will redeem them for Grace (*or send them to 9591 W Moonlight Bay Lane, Oak Harbor OH 43449*).

© **DEACON AND LECTOR SCHEDULE.** Deacons and Lectors scheduled to serve in upcoming worship services are listed in the table.

DATE	DEACONS	LECTORS
2 April	Randy Jacobs & Gary Anderson	John Marik
9 April	Jean & Merlyn Weng	Jean Wietelmann
16 April	Mary & Mike Schlievert	Nancy Bennett
23 April	Deb & Jeff Boos	Jean Weng

© **POCKET QUILTS.** A POCKET QUILT is a way we all can pass a tangible message about God's love to someone else. Keep an extra one and a card in your pocket to share with someone you see who looks troubled or needs a hug. You'll be surprised at the response you will get. Sometimes there will even be tears.

- © **BACKPACKS FOR HUMANS** (<https://backpacknation.space/>). This 501(c) (3) organization serves people in crisis in the Toledo area. Current needs for donated items include men’s and toddler clothes, blankets, and pillows. Please bring donation items to the church and place them in the collection box in the Narthex.
- © **ELMORE FOOD PANTRY.** The Grace Food Pantry item for March is 13 oz. boxes of mashed potatoes. Grace hosts the Elmore Food Pantry, which is open on the second Friday of each month, from 9:00 AM until noon. Anyone who wants to drop off food items at the church may bring them to the church on Sunday or leave them inside the north door during times when the church office is open.

Our Prayer: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION		
PASTOR	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	CHURCH OFFICE
Pastor Jaci Tiell pastorjacitiell@aol.com 419-215-8370	Gary Anderson dcmgaryanderson@gmail.com 419-607-3036	Joyce Bruntz graceelc@gmail.com 419-862-3630

Grace ELC Weekly Message Distribution. *Grace Family Weekly Messages* are distributed by email and regular mail to Grace’s members and friends to inform them about Grace’s worship services, church activities and benevolence programs. To submit an announcement for the **Message** please contact the Church Office (email: graceelc@gmail.com; mail to the Church at: 19225 W. Witty Road, Elmore OH 43416). To add someone to the distribution list, send their email or mailing address to the Church Office.



CROSSER & PRIESMAN
Funeral Home & Cremation Service

"Advanced Planning Workshop"

Join us for our "Advanced Planning Workshop"

Advanced Funeral Planning Workshop will take you through the planning process
in a group setting.

We will be going through the entire process of:

- The 4 steps of Advanced Funeral Planning
 - Vital Statistical Information
 - Funeral Service Options
 - Funeral Merchandise Options
 - Funeral Trust Options

WHEN: Thursday May 11th

TIME: 6:00PM

WHERE: Grace Lutheran Church, Elmore

Refreshments will be served

Please RSVP to 419-862-3331 by Wednesday May 10th

