



The Kingly Priest

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Welcome to Worship

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we — the pastor and members of Peace! Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection, Jesus saves all sinners. We learn these truths from the Bible — God's complete plan for our salvation and his guidebook for our lives. Peace greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

MIDWEEK SERIES: IT IS FINISHED

During this midweek Lenten series, we turn to the Old Testament book of Zechariah to hear God's promises spoken centuries before Holy Week. Through vivid and specific prophecies, Zechariah points us to the final days of Jesus' life—His humble entry into Jerusalem, His betrayal, the scattering of His disciples, and His piercing on the cross. These are not vague predictions, but precise promises that unfold as Jesus walks the road to the cross. With each step toward His suffering, another word of God is fulfilled, moving us closer to the moment when Jesus will finally declare, "*It is finished.*" As we listen to these ancient words during Lent, we see that Christ's suffering was no accident or detour, but part of God's saving plan from the beginning. Zechariah helps us slow down and see Holy Week not as a tragedy spiraling out of control, but as the faithful completion of God's Word. In this series, we are invited to repent, to trust, and to marvel that when Jesus says, "*It is finished,*" our salvation truly is complete.

February 25: What's He Worth to You?

March 4: Scattered Sheep

March 11: The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth

March 18: The Kingly Priest

March 25: Look at the One Who Was Pierced



Order of Service

TONIGHT'S FOCUS: THE KINGLY PRIEST

Opening Hymn

Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow the wood - land,
2 The rule of day is o - ver and shin - ing
3 Lord Je - sus, since you love me, O spread your
4 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, for God this



field, and mead - ow; the world in slum - ber lies.
jew - els cov - er the heav - en's bound - less blue.
wings a - bove me and shield me from a - larm.
night will sure - ly from per - il guard your heads.



But you, my heart, a - wak - en, with prayer and song be
Thus I shall shine in heav - en, where crowns of gold are
Though Sa - tan would as - sail me, your mer - cy will not
Sweet slum - bers may he send you and bid his hosts at -



tak - en; let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
giv - en to all who faith - ful prove and true.
fail me; I rest in your pro - tect - ing arm.
tend you and through the night watch o'er your beds.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession of Sins

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

#105 vs. 4 CW

**My burden in your passion, Lord, you have borne for me,
For it was my transgression, My shame on Calvary.
I cast me down before you; Wrath is my rightful lot.
Have mercy I implore you; Redeemer spurn me not!**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
**we have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, and
in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven.
Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in
newness of life.

Amen.

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

#105 vs. 5 CW

**What language should I borrow To thank you, dearest Friend,
For this, your dying sorrow, Your pity without end?
Oh, make me your forever, And keep me strong and true;
Lord, let me never, never Out live my love for you.**

Passion Reading From the Gospel of Matthew – Matthew

27:1-26

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. ² So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

³ When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴ “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”

“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” ⁵ So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

⁶ The chief priests picked up the coins and said, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” ⁷ So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸ That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹ Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, ¹⁰ and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”^[a]

¹¹ Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied.

¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

¹⁵ Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus^[b] Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you:

Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"¹⁸ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

²¹ "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered.

²² "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!"

²³ "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

²⁵ All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Reading Response

All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

By His wounds we are healed.

Hymn of the Day

No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet



1 No tramp of sol - diers' march - ing feet
2 And yet he comes. The chil - dren cheer;
3 What fad - ing flow'rs his road a - dorn;
4 Now he who bore for mor - tals' sake



with ban - ners and with drums, no sound of mu - sic's
with palms his path is strown. With ev - 'ry step the
the palms, how soon laid down! No bloom or leaf but
the cross and all its pains and chose a ser - vant's



mar - tial beat: "The King of glo - ry comes!"
cross draws near: the King of glo - ry's throne.
on - ly thorn the King of glo - ry's crown.
form to take, the King of glo - ry reigns.



To greet what pomp of king - ly pride
A - stride a colt he pass - es by
The sol - diers mock, the rab - ble cries,
Ho - san - na to the Sav - ior's name



no bells in tri - umph ring, no cit - y gates swing
as loud ho - san - nas ring, or else the ver - y
the streets with tu - mult ring, as Pi - late to the
till heav - en's raft - ers ring, and all the ran - somed



o - pen wide: "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"
stones would cry "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"
mob re - plies, "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"
host pro - claim "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"

Reading

Zechariah 6:9–13

⁹The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁰“Take silver and gold from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon. Go the same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah. ¹¹Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and set it on the head of the high priest, Joshua son of Jozadak. ¹²Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. ¹³It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.’

Sermon

Confession of Faith: The Second Article (Redemption)

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Offering

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory

forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Before the Throne of God Above



1 Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
2 When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me
3 Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect,



strong and per - fect plea; a great High Priest whose name is
of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see him
spot - less right-eous-ness, the great un - change - a - ble I



Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
there who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the
AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace. At one with



grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
him, I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his



heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can
free; for God the just is sat - is - fied to look on
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my



bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

Acknowledgments

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Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ, to gather college students and the local community into a family of believers, and to share the message of hope and the promise of salvation through grace.