



**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385  
(219) 462-6660 • [clcvalpo.org](http://clcvalpo.org)



**Passion Sunday**  
March 29, 2026

## **We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.**

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure\* of faith, grace, and love.

*\* The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

### **ABOUT WORSHIP**

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

### **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!**

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

### **WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP**

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

### **RESTROOMS**

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

*Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.*

**A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.**

*Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. 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 of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

***As you are able please join us in the Gathering Area  
for the Procession into the Sanctuary.***

### **PRELUDE**

*All Glory, Laud & Honor  
(Maestoso; Largo)*

Burkhardt

### **WELCOME**

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*



***Prayer requests*** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.*

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21: 1-11**    *Entrance into the final days*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>“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.”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>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!”

<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**ACCLAMATION**

*The presiding minister begins (repeated one or more times):*

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

**Hosanna in the highest!**

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW #344 *All Glory, Laud & Honor*

*The assembly turns to follow the processional cross.*

*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.

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*A brief silence is kept.*

Lord of the swaying palms,  
the stones of earth and beasts of burden  
bear witness to your coming:  
lead us from the violence of empire  
and the collusion of crowds  
to a heart of flesh,  
a world re-made  
and new song for all creation;  
through Jesus Christ, the Crucified God.  
**Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song*

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

*The assembly is seated as children are invited forward for a time together.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the  
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel  
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Thy last and  
5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -  
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy tri - umphs  
ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and  
fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on His  
pomp ride on to die. Bow Thy meek head to

sue Thy road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.  
now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
won - d'ring eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
sap - phire throne A - waits His own a - noint - ed Son.  
mor - tal pain, Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

## 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.

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## PRAYERS

*Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations. Further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.*

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally: our Presiding Bishop Curry, our Synod Bishop Graham, our Pastors Tim and Erica. Bless the ministries of pastors, chaplains, and deaconesses who are part of our congregation: Jane, John, Tim, Ron, Karyn, Rob, Steve, Edie, Diana, Karen, Kristin, Kat, and Carrie. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. In the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia, empower the witness of churches and bless the work of all who tend to the common good.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for Hans Nielsen Hauge, John Donne, Benedict the African, and all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## **OFFERING**

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests.*

*Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts for the Lutheran Diaconal*

*Association [www.thelda.org](http://www.thelda.org).*

*If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at [clvalpo.org/give](https://clvalpo.org/give) or use [our CLC app](#) (download at [clvalpo.org/app](https://clvalpo.org/app)).*



**OFFERTORY (8:00 a.m.)**

*All Glory, Laud & Honor  
(Andante)*

Burkhardt

**OFFERING ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.)**

*Draw Nigh to Jerusalem*

Williams

*Draw nigh to Thy Jerusalem, O Lord, Thy faithful people cry with one accord: Ride on in triumph: Lord, behold we lay our passions, lusts, and proud wills in Thy way. Thy road is ready, and Thy paths made straight, with longing expectation seem to wait the consecration of Thy beauteous feet, and silently Thy promise advent greet! Hosanna! Welcome to our hearts! For here Thou hast a temple, too, as Zion dear; O enter in, dear Lord, unbar the door and in that temple dwell forevermore. Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
**your steadfast love embraces all creation.**  
**You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.**  
**Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.**  
**We ask this in Jesus' name.**  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.", "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.", "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.", and "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases ending in a half note.

*The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:*

## SANCTUS

*(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,", "heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the", "high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -", and "san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases ending in a half note.

## TABLE PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

*Children: The Spirit makes us one. We 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly is seated.*

### DISTRIBUTION

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen (receive the bread)**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen (receive the cup)**

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this.

# LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



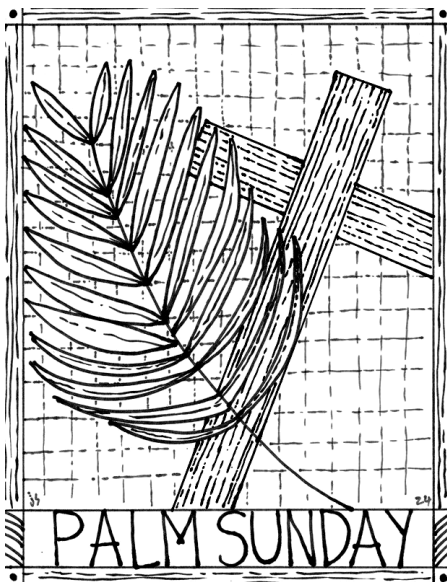
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



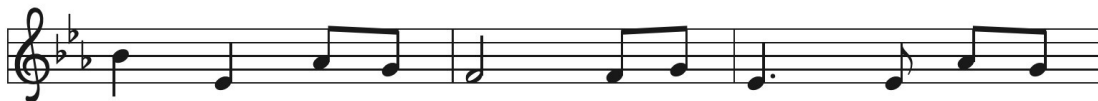
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.



COMMUNION HYMN ACS #966 *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

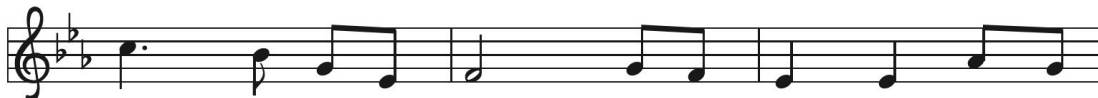


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

*Refrain*



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

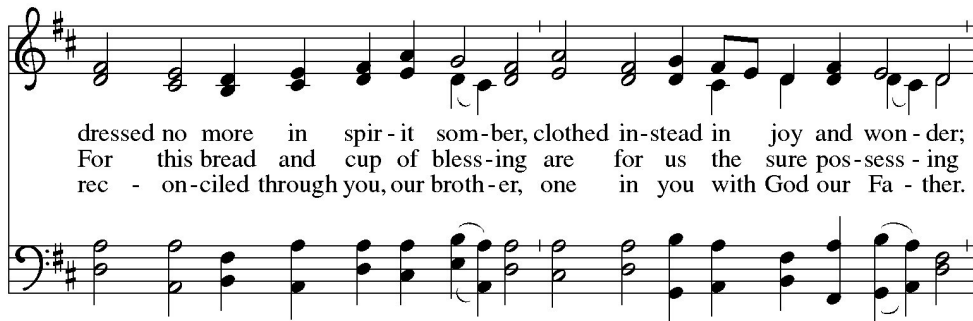
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Music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

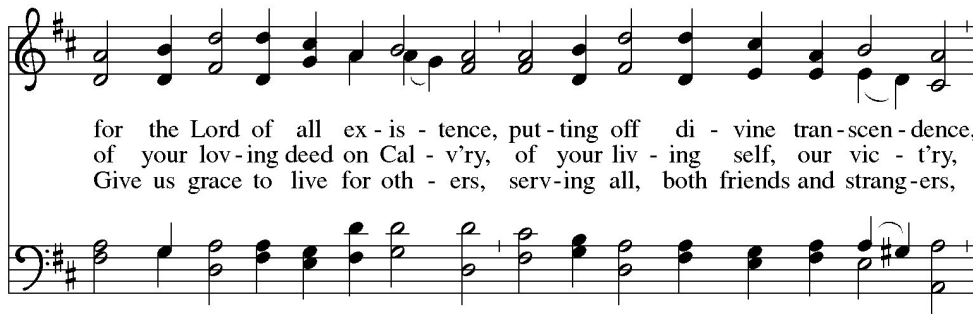
ELW #462 *Now We Join in Celebration*



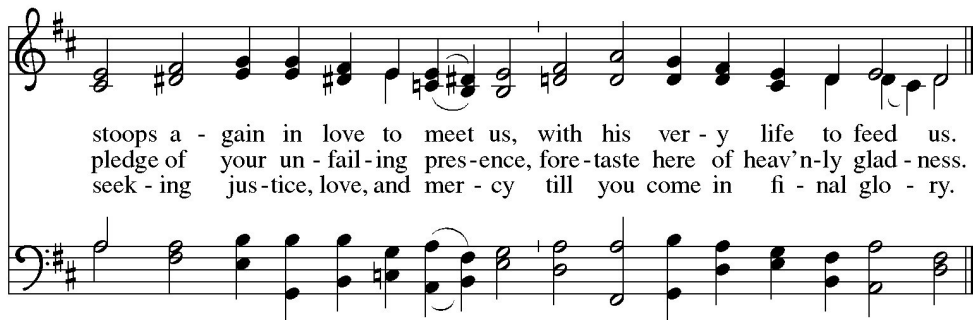
1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,  
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!  
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;  
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing  
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



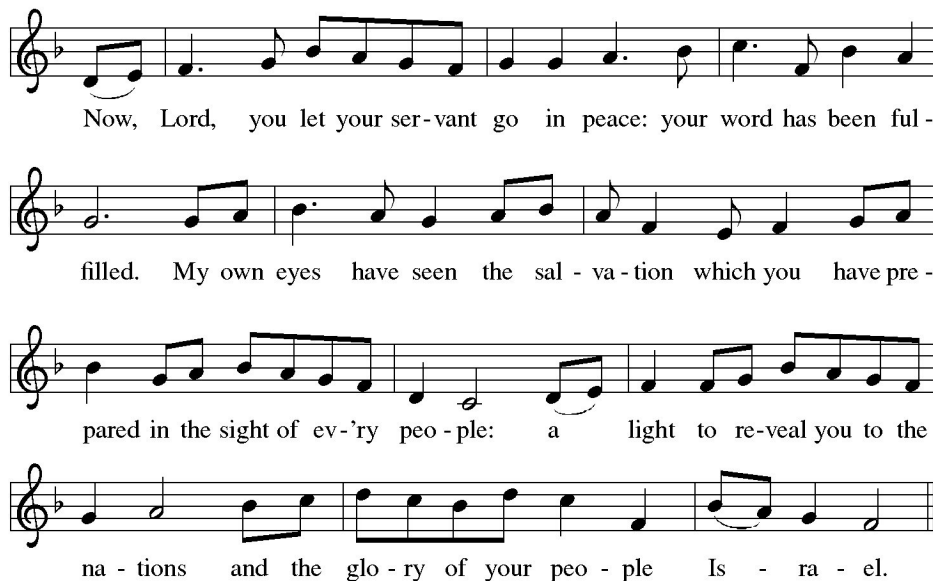
for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,  
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,  
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.  
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.  
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.*  
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the  
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

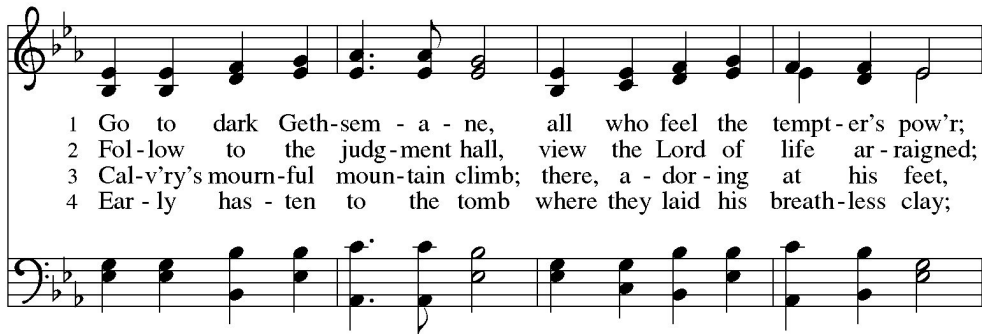
## **INVITATIONS**

*Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

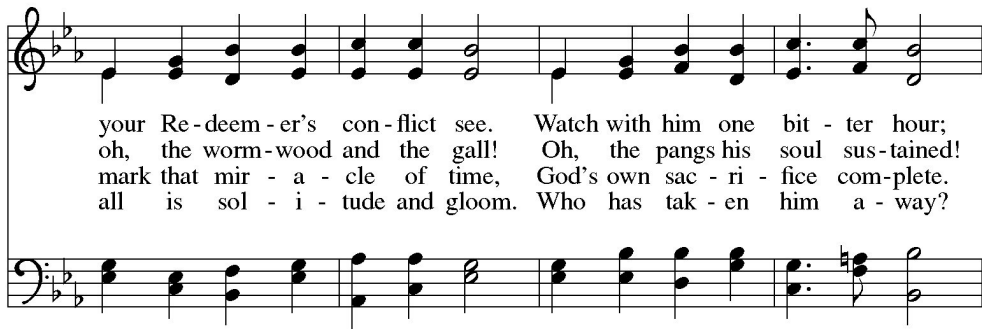
PASSION HYMN ELW#347

Go to Dark Gethsemane

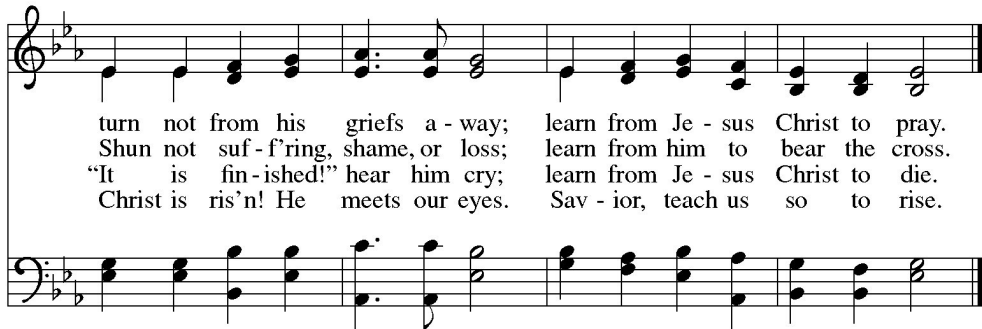
The assembly stands.



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raign'd;  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!  
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.  
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

## **PASSION: Matthew 26: 14—27:66**

*Through the teachings and events of the passion story we see and hear the great contradictions that characterize the coming of God's reign. The leader serves the followers, proud Peter is revealed in his cowardice, and Jesus—the innocent bringer of life—is arrested, beaten, executed, and buried.*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **Chapter 26**

<sup>14</sup> Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

<sup>17</sup> On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” <sup>18</sup> He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” <sup>19</sup> So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, <sup>21</sup> and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup> And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” <sup>23</sup> He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> 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.” <sup>25</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

<sup>30</sup> When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,

and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

<sup>32</sup> “But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him,

“Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three

times.” <sup>35</sup> Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And

so said all the disciples.

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."<sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated.<sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."<sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want."<sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?"<sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."<sup>42</sup> Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."<sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.<sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.<sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.<sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.<sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."<sup>49</sup> At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.<sup>51</sup> Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword."<sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?<sup>54</sup> But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"<sup>55</sup> At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me."<sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

<sup>57</sup> Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.<sup>58</sup> But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end.<sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death,<sup>60</sup> but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward<sup>61</sup> and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"<sup>62</sup> The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"<sup>63</sup> But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."<sup>64</sup> Jesus said

to him, “You have said so. But I tell you,  
From now on you will see the Son of Man  
seated at the right hand of Power  
and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

<sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death.” <sup>67</sup> Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> saying, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” <sup>71</sup> When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” <sup>72</sup> Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” <sup>73</sup> After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” <sup>74</sup> Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

## Chapter 27

<sup>1</sup> When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. <sup>2</sup> They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>3</sup> When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup> He said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” <sup>5</sup> Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup> But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.” <sup>7</sup> After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. <sup>8</sup> For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, <sup>10</sup> and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how

many accusations they make against you?”<sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

<sup>38</sup> Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God,

come down from the cross.”<sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,<sup>42</sup> “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.”<sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ”<sup>44</sup> The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.<sup>46</sup> And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”<sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.”<sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.<sup>49</sup> But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”<sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.<sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.<sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.<sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.<sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

<sup>55</sup> Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him.<sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus.<sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.<sup>59</sup> So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth<sup>60</sup> and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.<sup>61</sup> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

<sup>62</sup> The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate<sup>63</sup> and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ ”<sup>64</sup> Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.”<sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.”<sup>66</sup> So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia**

### **We are thankful for:**

- the faithful witness of Christians here through the centuries, especially in times of occupation and persecution
- the peaceful resolution of disputes
- the distinctive cultural contributions and resources in these lands
- the religious freedom and ecumenical cooperation that is growing.

### **We pray for:**

- greater respect for the Roma people and others who are marginalized and who lack adequate livelihoods in these lands
- welcoming and engaging those of other faiths and ethnicities
- growth in spiritual as well as physical health
- democratic governance that advances God's justice and peace for all.

## **COMMEMORATIONS**

*Week of March 29, 2026*

### **March 29**

#### **Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824**

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.

### **March 31**

#### **John Donne, poet, died 1631**

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

### **April 4**

#### **Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589**

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

<b>Worship Leaders</b>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Shawn Longacre	Caleb Burnside
Lector	John Buggeln	Sara Long
Prayer Assistant	Darla Hernandez	Amy Knauff
Communion Assistants	Scott Steinwart Gregg Copeland	Sara Long Jacquie Chevalier
Ushers	Bill Scheiderich Ben Lieske	Bull Family
Sound/Light		Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	-----	
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Sanctuary Choir	
Communion Baker	Angela Wehner	

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