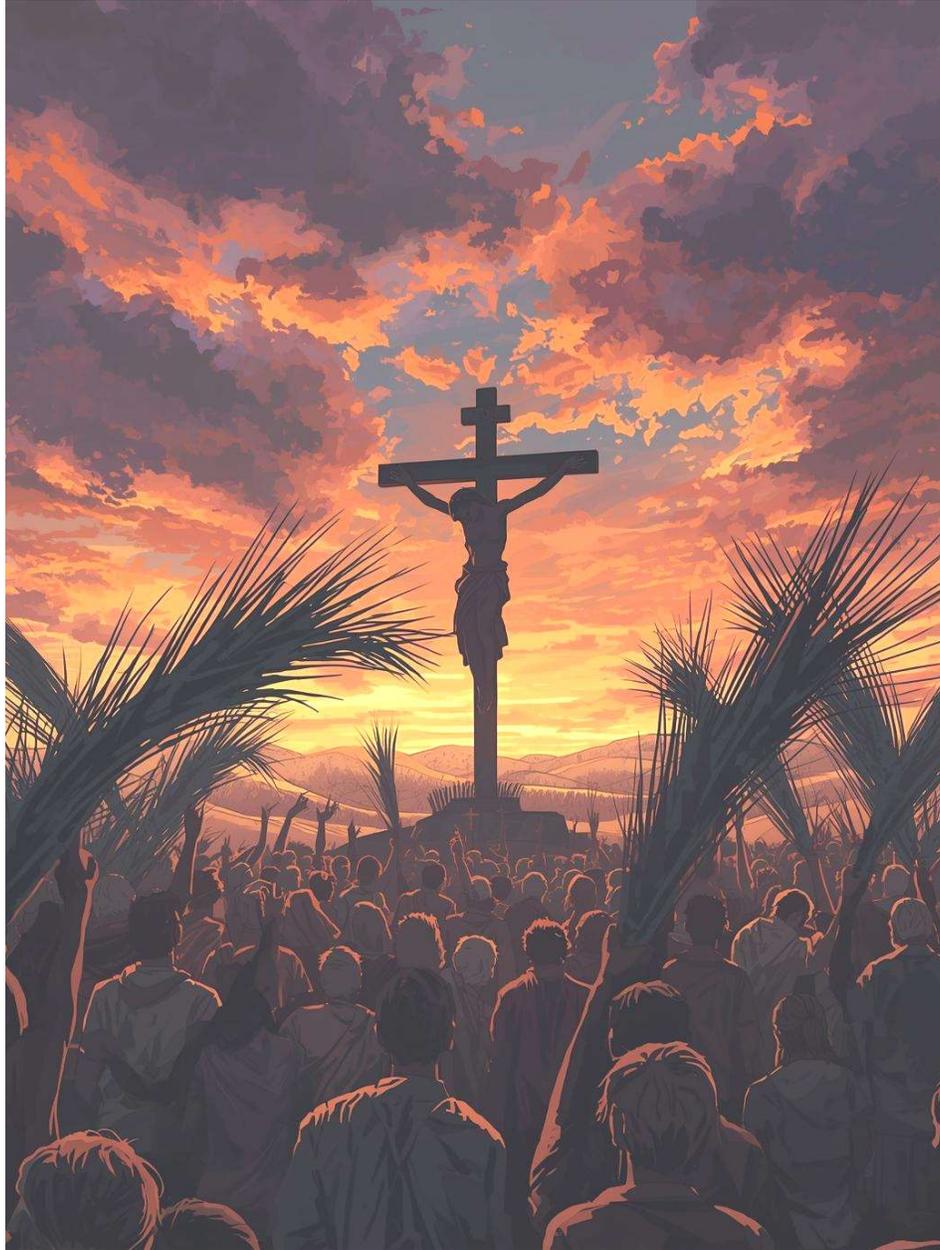


*WELCOME TO*  
**LUTHER MEMORIAL  
CHURCH & ACADEMY**



29 MARCH 2026  
**PALM SUNDAY OF OUR LORD'S PASSION**  
10:30 am

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

PRELUDE – "Into the Woods My Master Went"  
"All Glory Laud and Honor"

P. Lutkin/F. Callahan  
arr. F. Callahan

*Handbell Choir*

## GREETING

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

## PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

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 they will be sent immediately." <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: <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 Jesus 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."**

<sup>12</sup>Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "*It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a den of robbers.*" <sup>14</sup>The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. <sup>15</sup>But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying,

**"Hosanna to the Son of David,"**

they became angry <sup>16</sup>and said to him,

**"Do you hear what these are saying?"**

Jesus said to them, "*Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'*"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## BLESSING OF THE PALMS

*Palms are lifted for blessing*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

We praise you, O God, ...through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## ENTRANCE RITE

Let us go forth in peace,

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

*FOLLOWING THE MERCYHURST LITURGICAL DANCERS, THE CROSS AND MINISTERS,  
ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FESTIVE PROCESSION.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

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.  
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring.

*Refrain*

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.  
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

*SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND PERSONAL PRAYER. THE PRESIDING MINISTER, ON BEHALF OF ALL, PRAYS:*

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*THE CONGREGATION MAY BE SEATED.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW 346**

**Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!**

1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the  
 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of  
 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -  
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -  
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring  
 pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal

sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.  
 gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
 eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.  
 Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912–1993  
 Music © 1941 by The H.W. Gray Co. Inc. Copyright renewed. All rights reserved.

## THE PASSION according to MATTHEW 26:14-27:66

The passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “*What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?*” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray him. 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?”**

Jesus 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.’*” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, Jesus took his place with the twelve disciples, and while they were eating, he said, “*Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.*” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

**“Surely not I, Lord?”**

Jesus answered, “*The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 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.*” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “*Surely not I, Rabbi?*” He replied, “*You have said so.*”

*THE CONGREGATION RISES IN BODY OR SPIRIT.*

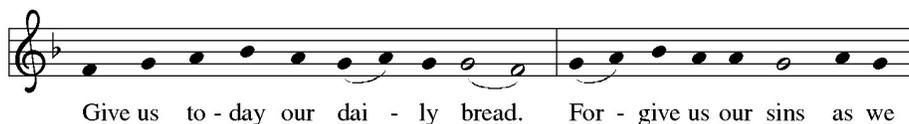
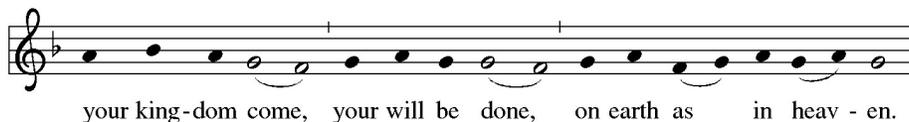
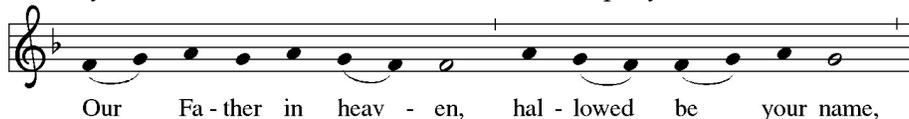
## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*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.”*

*Then he took a cup,  
and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,  
“Drink from it, all of you,  
for this is my blood of the covenant,  
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
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 dominion.”*

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Lord, remember us in your Father’s dominion and teach us to pray:*



for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*THE CONGREGATION MAY BE SEATED.*

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and Christ is, himself, present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle. Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle. White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know. Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray. All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

### HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

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. A - men.

# The Lamb

TFF 89



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?  
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, one per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.  
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, as way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill.  
 4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.  
 5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
 The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.  
 So still, his will on our be - half the Law to fill.  
 He lives, for - gives, he gives me his own righ - teous - ness.  
 His song pro - long till ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.

*Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!



The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne!

Text: Gerald Patrick Coleman  
 Music: WINTER, Gerald Patrick Coleman

Text and music © 1987 MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved.

# My Song Is Love Unknown

ELW 343



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,  
 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;  
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;  
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.  
 but men made strange, and none the longed - for Christ would know.  
 re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.  
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail  
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his  
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they  
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!  
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have  
my dear Lord made away;  
a murderer they save,  
the prince of life they slay.  
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,  
that he his foes from thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death, no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home;  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing—  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683  
Music: RHOSYMEDRE, John D. Edwards, 1806–1885

TFF 86

## King of My Life

### *Lead Me to Calvary*

1 King of my life I crown thee now, thine shall the glo - ry be;  
2 Show me the tomb where thou wast laid, ten - der - ly mourned and wept;  
3 Let me, like Mar - y, through the gloom, come with a gift to thee;  
4 May I be will - ing, Lord, to bear dai - ly my cross for thee,

lest I for - get thy thorn - crowned brow, lead me to Cal - va - ry.  
an - gels in robes of light ar - rayed guard - ed thee whilst thou slept.  
show to me now the emp - ty tomb, lead me to Cal - va - ry.  
e - ven thy cup of grief to share; thou hast borne all for me.

*Refrain*

Lest I for - get Geth - sem - a - ne, lest I for - get thine ag - o - ny,

lest I for - get thy love for me, lead me to Cal - va - ry.

Text: Jennie Evelyn Hussey, 1874–1958  
Music: LEAD ME TO CALVARY, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 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.’ But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.*” Peter said to him, “*Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.*” Jesus said to him, “*Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.*” Peter said to him, “*Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.*” And so said all the disciples. 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.*” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, “*My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.*” 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.*” 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? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*”

*THE CONGREGATION KNEELS OR SITS AS IS COMFORTABLE FOR THE PRAYERS.*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray, siblings, for the Church of Jesus Christ in this and every place. For Yehiel and Kristen, our bishops; Jean, our dean; Jay, our pastor; and all who serve the Church.

*silence for personal prayer for the Church*

Let us pray for God’s good creation, for our stewardship of God’s gifts to us, for those who need shelter from the weather.

*silence for personal prayer for creation*

Let us pray for the nations of the world, for their leaders, for peace and those who seek it.

*silence for personal prayer for the nations*

Let us pray for those who are sick and suffering, for those who share God’s gifts of science and medicine, for those who will die today.

*silence for personal prayer for the sick and suffering*

Let us pray for all those things that weigh on our hearts.

*silence for personal prayer*

Let us give thanks for the promises of baptism, for those who have claimed their baptismal promises, especially Hans, John, Benedict, Evelyn, Charlotte and Sharon, and to be held together with them until we are joined into Christ.

*silence for personal prayer in thanksgiving for the saints and the gifts of baptism.*

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers trusting in the mercy and grace of the Crucified-Risen One, Jesus.

**Amen.**

*THE CONGREGATION MAY BE SEATED.*

Again Jesus went away for the second time and prayed, “*My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.*” Again Jesus came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. 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 Human is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.*” While Jesus 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. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “*The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.*” At once he came up to Jesus and said, “*Greetings, Rabbi!*” and kissed him. Jesus said to him, “*Friend, do what you are here to do.*” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. 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. Then

Jesus said to him, *“Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will die by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, who will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?”* 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. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.”* Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. 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. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, *“This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’”* The high priest stood up and said, *“Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”* 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.”* Jesus said to him, *“You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Human One seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”* Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, *“He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What do you think?”* They answered,

**“He deserves death.”**

Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, saying,

**“Prophecy to us, you Messiah!  
Who is it that struck you?”**

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, *“You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”* But he denied it before all of them, saying, *“I do not know what you are talking about.”* When Peter went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, *“This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.”* Again he denied it with an oath, *“I do not know the man.”* After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

**“Certainly you are also one of them,  
for your accent betrays you.”**

Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, *“I do not know the man!”* At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: *“Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”* And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. 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. He said, *“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”* But they said,

**“What is that to us?  
See to it yourself.”**

Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, Judas departed, and he went and hanged himself. 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.”**

After conferring together, they used the silver to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 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, and they gave the silver for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”* Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, *“Are you the king of the Jews?”* Jesus said, *“You say so.”* But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, *“Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?”* But Jesus gave Pilate no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at

the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. 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?”* For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 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.”* Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, *“Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”* And they said,

**“Barabbas.”**

Pilate said to them, *“Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”* All of them said,

**“Let him be crucified!”**

Then Pilate asked, *“Why, what evil has he done?”* But they shouted all the more,

**“Let him be crucified!”**

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.”* Then the people as a whole answered,

**“His blood be on us and on our children!”**

So Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 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!”**

They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, *“This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”*



*A crown of thorns adorns his brow.  
No songs of praise ring from the crowd.  
No trumpet black, no joyful sound; is this the King of glory?*

*A wooden cross to be his throne,  
in deepest grief he dies alone.  
No greater love could e'er be shown.  
O could this be the King, the King of glory?*

*Is this the King who was foretold?  
Where is his power, his crown of gold?  
Even his robe lies tattered and torn.  
Soldiers cast lots and laugh him to scorn.*

*On a hill of death he dies, alone, no mercy shown and no reprieve.  
Is this the King of glory?*

*Upon that lonely rugged hill, God's perfect grace would be revealed.  
In love, his arms are outstretched still.  
O Jesus is the King, the King of glory.  
Christ is the King of glory.*

*THE CONGREGATION RISES IN BODY OR SPIRIT.*

Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads 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.”**

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, “*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. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if God wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’*” The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 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?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

**“This man is calling for Elijah.”**

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. But the others said,

**“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”**

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

*SILENCE IS KEPT.*

*Jesus, Salvator Mundi, tuis famulis subveni,  
quos precioso sanguine, redemisti.*

Jesus, O Blessed Savior, to thy servants be merciful;  
who with thy precious blood hast bought our redemption.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 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!”**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

## THE CHRIST HYMN

Philippians 2:5-11

Let us confess our faith: <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus,

**<sup>6</sup>who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.**

**And being found in appearance as a human,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.**

**<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*THE CONGREGATION MAY BE SEATED.*

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth 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. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “*Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ 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.*” Pilate said to them, “*You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.*” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

*SILENCE FOR REFLECTION FOLLOWS THE PASSION READING.  
AT THE INVITATION OF THE PRESIDING MINISTER THE CONGREGATION RISES IN BODY OR SPIRIT.*

**SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**Go to Dark Gethsemane**

**ELW 347**

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 - rained;  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,

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.

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.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854  
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Look to the cross.

**POSTLUDE – "Gethsemane"**

D. Cherwin

# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

## LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN,

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*LMA Principal*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

*Scripture quotations have been prepared by Augsburg Fortress for provisional use. Citations from Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations based on Readings for the Assembly © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress; NRSV Bible © 1989 and NRSVue Bible © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Adapted and edited by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw.*

### — SERVING TODAY —

*PRESIDING MINISTER* – Pastor Jay Mitchell

*PASSION READERS* – Pat Bellingham, Brian Davis, Les Fobes, Bill Lasher, Linda Melaragno,  
Cathy Meyn, Rose-Marie Rose, Stan Rose

*CRUCIFER* – Patrick Cimino

*ACOLYTES AND TORCHBEARERS* – Cecilia & Noah Montroy

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Linda Swanson

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Tom Klomp

*USHERS* – Jessica Copfer, Jane & Dave Kinzig, Carl Moore

*ALTAR GUILD* – Martha & Tom Klomp

*VIDEO STREAMING* – Gina Snider



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Rob's mom, Evelyn L. Benacci, by Nancy and Rob Benacci.

**Front altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of mom and grandma by the Chaffee family.

**Front altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Sharon Rositer-McGhee by her family.

### Today's Events

**Thank you to** The Mercyhurst Liturgical Dance Ensemble, under the direction of C. Noelle Partusch, for enhancing our worship service this morning.

**Giving offerings** to outreach ministries allows Luther Memorial to support vital work beyond our church walls, like serving those in need and spreading the gospel. It enables us to fulfill our mission of serving God and others by funding programs that improve lives, both physically and spiritually. This morning our offerings will be donated to our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) in this season. Please mark your offering envelope ELCJHL if you would like to donate your offering today.

**Between the Motion and the Music** is a documentary that will be offered this afternoon at 4:00 by Fred Rueckert, a Rochester Institute of Technology student. A reception will follow in the parlor. The presentation shows the Massey Memorial Organ's 1992-1993 reconstruction. Begun in late 1992 and completed in June 1993 the organ was reconstructed by the Fischer Pipe Organ Company of Erie. In 2003 a 32" Bombarde stop was added to the instrument by the Fischer Pipe Organ Company. This specialized organ stop was donated to Chautauqua Institution by Mr. Rueckert in memory of his grandparents and his college project.

**LMA Book Fair** will be open in the school library following services this morning. Pick up something special for your child's Easter basket; there's a great variety of books and items to go with that Easter candy.

**Volunteers** who would like to take part in the 7:00pm Maundy Thursday service are asked to remain following the 10:30 service this morning. We will meet in the main church and review the procedure for Stripping the Altar. Please see Les Fobes with any questions.

### **Worship Matters!**

**This morning's liturgy** may feel backwards, or at least a little topsy turvy. We share the Lord's Supper so early. There are scripture readings all the way to the end. This day as we follow the story of the Passion, as we tell again the story of Holy Week, we begin the most embodied week of worship in the entire year. As such we do not just tell the story of the Passion but we embody it.

Now, this is ***NOT*** play acting. We are not recreating the Passion or re-living it. We are not pretending that we do not already know the end of the story. When we leave Jesus in the tomb at the end of worship today, we do not leave as the women did not knowing what comes next. We are Easter people even now. That being said, we do *embody* the story this week. We use all our senses, our minds, our whole selves to retell these stories. Because they are that deeply a part of us: We are baptized into these very stories. Our baptized life is one of dying with Christ and rising with him. We are called to live our whole lives cross-shaped. So when we come to these central stories of our faith—the death of Jesus being the most important story we will ever tell in our lives because for us it is life—it is only appropriate we use everything we have to remember, to tell, to worship.

### **Worship and Gathering This Week**

**We continue the story** this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:00. We are called to celebrate the Triduum—the Great Three Days of our faith—and not skip simply from Palms to Resurrection. We will gather each night to remember and celebrate Love outpoured. We will celebrate love poured out like water over dirty feet and wine overflowing our cups. We will celebrate—yes celebrate—love poured out like blood from a wounded side. We will celebrate love poured out like floodwaters and sea waters and tears outside an empty tomb.

We will also welcome **The Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis** of Luther Seminary as our guest preaching during the Triduum. Dr. Lewis' specialty is the Gospel of John—which is the source of our readings all three nights. If you would like to financially support Dr. Lewis' visit with us—or future guests of the *Great Preachers* series, please speak with Pastor Jay.

### **Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series**

**Astralis Chamber Ensemble** will offer a program on Friday, April 17 at 7:00pm at Luther Memorial. Please join us as these award-winning musicians; flute, viola and harp; present "Meditations" featuring works by Debussy, Dubois and Genzemer. These musicians represent decades of experience performing at many of the world's major venues and notable concert series.

**Presque Isle Ringers**, Erie's only community handbell ensemble, will be showcasing their amazing and unique instrument at Luther Memorial on Sunday, April 26 at 7:00pm. You will see them pluck, mallet, thumb damp, echo and toll as they share their passion for handbells. Please join us for this wonderful concert with reception following.

### **Faith Formation for All Ages**

**First Holy Communion** will be offered on Sunday, April 19 during the 10:30am service. In preparation for First Communion two Saturday morning sessions will be held on April 11 and April 18 from 9:00am – 12:00 noon, including snack time. These 2 All-Family Workshops will be our preparation for the big celebration! Any family interested in First Communion should plan to attend both sessions. First Communion is open to all the baptized so any child and family are welcome if you're ready. However, families with children in grades 3-5 are strongly encouraged to participate if your child has not received First Communion yet. Please contact Pastor Jay or the church office if your family will be attending these sessions. Thank you.

**Brown Bag Bible (B<sup>3</sup>)** gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. B<sup>3</sup> resumes on Thursday, April 30 with a study on the book of Revelation.

**Bible After Dark (BAD)** meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month at 6:30pm at Calamari's Squid Row (1317 State St.) for a time of conversation and fellowship. We are using Josh Scott's book *Parables: Putting Jesus' Stories in Their Place*. **YOU** are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 7 for our discussion on The Workers in the Vineyard.

**Four workshops** for confirmation students, 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, will be offered throughout the year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (in odd months: **November 9, January 11, 2025 and March 8, May 10, 2026**) after the 10:30am worship service. In order to successfully complete confirmation classes, each confirmand must attend all four. However, the *same four* will be offered every year in slightly different orders to allow for flexibility in attending all four. There will also be a worship leadership and a biblical literacy component that will need to be completed along with the usual service hours. Finally, ConfirCamp is strongly recommended for *at least* one year between the end of 7<sup>th</sup> and beginning of 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10<sup>th</sup> grade to each confirmand.

### **Opportunities for Fellowship**

**Come and join** us for an escape from reality. Enjoy a relaxing morning with friends at the Magic Fingers Grace Group as you knit your cares away sprinkled with some laughter. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, April 14 and 28, from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**All are invited** to join with the OWLS on Wednesday, April 22 for a walking tour of Organ Supply Industries, 2320 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street. Bryan Timm, vice-president of Organ Supply, will take us on a 30-40 minute tour of the one floor facility beginning at 11:00am. Following the tour we will enjoy a stop at a restaurant for lunch. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476, or Norma in the church office if you plan to attend.

**L.I.A.**, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, April 14 from 5:30-7:00pm planning of our upcoming service projects and some very creative ideas. All youth in grades 5-12 and their families are invited to join us the second Tuesday of each month; join us.

**CampBlast** will be held at Camp Lutherlyn, Butler, Pa, on Saturday, May 10 from 11:00am – 4:30pm. Rain or shine, this is a day of fun for the entire family; archery, gaga ball, zipline, crafts, hiking, hay rides, kayaking, and so much more. The entire day is free. What a wonderful way to spend your day!

### **Luther Memorial Academy**

**Pasta Dinner** will be served Sunday, April 19 from 4:00-6:00pm in our fellowship hall. Take an evening away from the kitchen and enjoy a delicious Italian meal. Your meal will include Penne Pasta from Valerio's, meatballs, salad from Metz, dinner roll and brownie dessert. Tickets are \$12/adults; \$8/children prior to April 19 and \$15/adults; \$10/children at the door. Dinners may also be pre-ordered "to-go". Tickets are available in the school office. Proceeds will benefit LMA's PTL. Thank you!

**Come celebrate!** The Luther Memorial Academy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be Saturday, May 2 from 5:00-7:30pm. **YOU** are invited to the celebration! If you are interested in joining in this historic moment in our parish, admission is \$20 per person. You may fill out a RSVP form as found on the welcome table out the doors next to the pulpit and return to the office (church or school). You may also reach out to the school office (814.454.0106 x222). The celebration won't be the same without you! Hope to see you there!

### **Community Support**

**W/ELCA** women are sponsoring a food collection to support Holy Trinity's food ministry. Holy Trinity provides food at least four times a week (over 8,000 meals in 2025) to those in need. Donations of the below items may be dropped off through Easter Sunday, April 5. A donation box marked "Holy Trinity" is located under the parlor area coat rack.

Cut green beans	Whole kernel corn	Wide egg noodles
Regular spaghetti	Tomato soup	Diced tomatoes
Tomato sauce	Cream of chicken soup	Cream of mushroom soup
Canned tuna in water	Canned chicken	

**Bethany BINGO Fundraiser at Polish Falcons, on Saturday, April 18:** Join us for an evening of fun at this event to benefit the Bethany Outreach Center. **Doors will open at 5:00pm** and the **games begin at 6:00pm**. Admission is \$30 per person. Take part in the ALL-CASH BINGO Games, and optional Basket raffle, Tips, and Instants. To purchase admission tickets in advance, please see Pat Bellingham, Eric Hedlund, or Casey Hedlund after church on Sundays, or Norma in the church office on weekdays. On the day of this event the kitchen will be open, so food and drink will be available for purchase. We encourage you to RSVP to Mabel at **814-456-6254** so you can reserve a table for your family and friends. Polish Falcons Club is located at 431 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. **Hope to see you there!**

**Camp Lutherlyn**

**Early Bird Deadline was March 3.** Several programs have already filled, and just a handful of spaces remain for programs like Adventurers, Night Owls, and Rocketry! You can learn more about this summer's awesome lineup by visiting [www.lutherlyn.com/summer](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summer). Lutherlyn's staff is happy to answer any questions you may have about programs, the registration process, pricing, financial assistance, or any other questions you may have. You can contact Lutherlyn at 724-865-2161 or email [registrar@lutherlyn.com](mailto:registrar@lutherlyn.com).

**Items to Note**

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

**In case of a pastoral emergency,** please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

**— PRAYER LIST —**

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Betsy Brumagin	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
Diane Parsons	Judy Karney	Karen Zamperini	Loretta Deeds
Donna Sedelmyer	Kate Martin	Sutton Rowland	David Leemhuis
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Mary Beth & Nancy, Kelly	Gail Lesuer	Linda F.	Kris
Archer Bardwell; age 3	Brooks Davis	Sharon Swick	Peggy S.
Henderson family	Carl Larese	Shirley	Diane Come
Kevin Soles & family	Jenny	Carol McFalls	Valerie
Adam & Connie Ogle	Katja & family	Peter Maker	
<b>Grief:</b>			
Shirley Messenger family	Paul Thom family	Sam Seggi, Jr. family	Richard Come family
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

## Readings and Commemorations This Week

**March 30 – Monday in Holy Week** – Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

**March 31 – Tuesday in Holy Week** – Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; I Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

**April 1 – Wednesday in Holy Week** – Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-13; John 13:12-32

**April 2 – Maundy Thursday** – Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-7, 31b-35

**April 3 – Good Friday** – Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

**April 4 – Holy Saturday (until sundown)** – Job 14:1-14; Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; I Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; I Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66; John 19:38-42



**CALENDAR**

<b>MONDAY, MARCH 30</b>	11:30am	Pizza with the Principal & Pastor
<b>TUESDAY, MARCH 31</b>		<b>Synodical Chrism Mass</b> <i>Pastor Jay out of the office.</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1</b>		
<b>THURSDAY, APRIL 2</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	11:30am 1:00pm 7:00pm	LMA Dismissal / Teacher Meeting Grief Group Solemn Eucharist <i>with Footwashing</i>
<b>FRIDAY, APRIL 3</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	12:00pm  7:00pm	<b>Church Offices and LMA Closed</b> Stations of the Cross <i>with Organ Reflections</i> Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion <i>with Adoration of the Cross</i>
<b>SATURDAY, APRIL 4</b>	10:30am 7:00pm	Presentation: Preaching and the Gospel of John Great Vigil of Easter <i>with Recitation of Salvation History and the First Eucharist of Resurrection</i>

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026**

**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY**

**Worship** with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church.

<b>SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Stan Rose
Communion Assistants	10:30am	Cathy Beck, Sharon Burke, Sue Cappelletty, Elaine Kern, Jan MacInnes
Lector	10:30am	Karen Lundwall
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Christy Adams
Counters	10:30am	Barb Dennison, Stan Rose
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES**

**Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion ~ Today, March 29**

Festal Eucharist  
*with Palm Procession and Passion*



8:15am      *Worship – Main Church*  
10:30am     *Worship – Palm Procession – Main Church*  
4:00pm      *Concert & Cultural Series Event – “Between the Motion and the Music”*



**Maundy Thursday ~ April 2**  
Solemn Eucharist of the Lord's Supper  
*with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar*

7:00pm      *Worship – Main Church*

**Good Friday ~ April 3**

Stations of the Cross  
*with Organ Reflections*



Beginning at 12:00 noon – *Main Church*

**Good Friday ~ April 3**

Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion  
*with Adoration of the Cross*

7:00pm – *Main Church*



**Holy Saturday ~ April 4**  
The Resurrection of Our Lord,  
Easter Vigil  
*with Recitation of Salvation History  
and First Eucharist of the Resurrection*

7:00pm – *gathering in the Courtyard*

**Easter Day ~ April 5**

The Resurrection of Our Lord,  
Easter Day  
*Festival Eucharist of the Resurrection*

8:15am      *Main Church*  
10:30am     *Main Church*



HOSANNA  
HOSANNA  
HOSANNA!!!

I have a feeling that this parade is not about me.

