

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



2 APRIL 2023
Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday
10:30 am

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.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

Pastor Emeritus

WALT GABER

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

Director of Care & Health Ministries

JAN MACINNES

BETH KELLER

Youth and Family Ministry

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

BECKY CAREY

Interim Academy Administrator

2 APRIL 2023

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Ten • 10:30



LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Luther Memorial is Christ's church that brings its ministry to northwest Pennsylvania within the context of its Lutheran heritage.

As a church that ministers to the community, it seeks to be an inclusive congregation providing a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn, and enhance both personal spiritual growth and fellowship.

GATHERING – "The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God."

PRELUDE – "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

J. S. Bach

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

INTROIT – "Hosanna to the Son of David"

Bartholomaeus Gesius

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Please stand in body or spirit as the procession enters the chancel.

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.**



A When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And they will be sent immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

- A** The gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

Please lift your palms for blessing.

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

P Let us pray,
We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today Jesus entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along the way. Bless these branches and those who bear them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ENTRANCE RITE

- P** Let us go forth in peace,
- C** in the name of Christ. Amen.

Please face the cross as it leads us into worship.

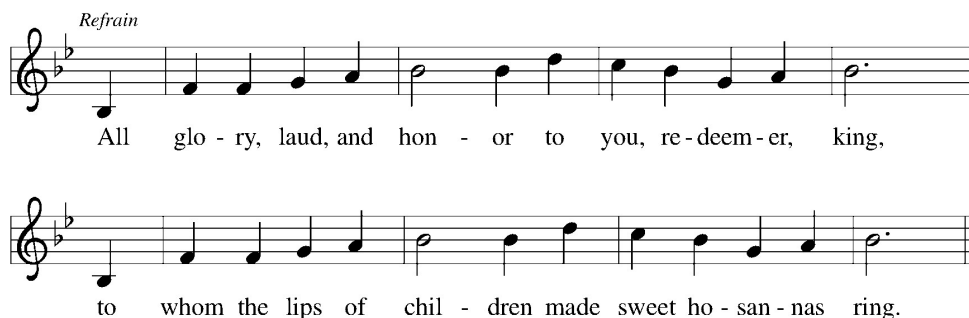
These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century. The melody was used extensively by J. S. Bach.

ENTRANCE HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

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,



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.

☑ **O God of mercy and might, 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.**

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE PASSION

WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning the Lord God wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸the one who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Phillipians 2:5-11

ANTHEM – "Let the Same Mind Be In You"

Thomas Pavlechko

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.*

*And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death;
even death on a cross.*

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

Please stand as you are able.

*This hymn text was written by a native of Bohemia who was forced to move to Germany with his family
in the 17th century, where he became a distinguished poet. The tune preceded the text,
its composer highly esteemed in the world of Lutheran church music.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

ELW 345



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,



let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion.
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.
how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

Please be seated.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST: Matthew 26:14-27, 66

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 Jesus. 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?”* Jesus replied, *“You have said so.”* 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.”* 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.”* 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 Son-of-Man 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 Jesus 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 Son-of-Man 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 Judeans?” 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 Judeans!” 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.

Please stand in body or spirit.



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 Judeans." 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.

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 Jesus' 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!*" 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.

Please be seated.

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. Please stand in body or spirit at the invitation of the Assisting Minister.

THE PRAYERS

A Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer. ▶

A Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful; in particular those whose names and needs we lift up now: *here, the assembly may offer names and causes dear to them.* Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old, especially Charlotte Chaffee, Bill Kent and Bob Halttunen, who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please be seated.

MEAL – “God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering:

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

VOLUNTARY – “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

J. G. Walther

Please stand in body or spirit.



Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Extravagant God, you have blessed us
with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast where milk and honey,
wine and wheat are found in abundance.
Take and use what we offer here,
come among us, and feed us with your self.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- | | |
|--|---|
| P The Lord be with you. | C And also with you. |
| P Lift up your hearts. | C We lift them to the Lord. |
| P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. | C It is right to give our thanks and praise. |
- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: ►

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Lord God, we praise you, bless you, and adore you.
 In thanksgiving we bow before you.
 O loving Father! You have created all,
 and you care for your children day and night.

C **Hosanna!**

P You sent your Son to bring us your salvation.
 Christ is the source of every grace and blessing,
 the true paschal lamb and bread of heaven,
 the very joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.

C **Hosanna!**

*On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks,
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.*

P We remember Jesus, your Word made flesh, our elder brother,
 dying on the accursed tree,
 crushing the power of hell,
 and rising again victorious from the grave.

C **Hosanna!**

P Send your Spirit on this holy feast.
 Nourish and heal us with the body and blood of our Savior.
 Bestow on your church your sweetest love,
 your transcendent comfort, your unity and peace.

C **Hosanna!**



P To you, the one true God,
we give our thanks and praise,
joining now and forever in loud songs of

C **Hosanna Amen!**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world;
happy are we who are called to his supper.

C **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

P Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

Please be seated.

SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.

Please come forward by the center aisle.

Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.

Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it are in the center of the tray.

Gluten-free wafers are on the stand in front of the baptismal font.

Receive the bread and wine and return to your place by the side aisle.

If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.

The opening line here could equally well have been a courtier's lament for a secret affair, but it soon becomes a path into a vivid and poignant reflection on Christ's Passion.

This 17th-century text is beautifully graced by the melody, composed by a Welsh priest educated at Oxford.

HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 343

My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
 4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love-less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing; re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to



be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my
 know. But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who
 king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet cheer - ful he to suf - f'ring goes that



Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.

5 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.

6 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!

*This hymn text has its Latin origins before 1100, but the German hymn was published in 1630.
The melody was published by Johann Cruger but is drawn from several sources.
This setting we hear today is the work of Johann Sebastian Bach.*

ELW 349

Ah, Holy Jesus



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Please stand in body or spirit.

TABLE BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

C Amen.

SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Mark Howell

BLESSING

P May God
who created rocks and palms and you,
who made them all to sing at his coming,
who gives you breath to sing praise,
God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you this day and always.

C Amen.

The author of this hymn text ranks in the top tier of contributors to English hymnody. His poetic gifts were widely recognized during his lifetime. The composer of the tune was an organist who held positions in only two churches during his lifetime.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 347

Go to Dark Gethsemane



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 - raigned;
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.

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

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. Look to the cross.

C Thanks be to God!

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— **SERVING TODAY** —

PREACHING – Pastor Jay Mitchell

GREETER – Pat Young

ACOLYTES – Gia Fracassi, Cecilia Montroy

CROSS – Jessica Copfer

BREAD – Ellie Wertz

WINE – Maddie Wertz

ASSISTING MINISTER – Michael Snider

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL – Michael & Matthew Snider

FIRST READING – Lincoln McCall

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Mary Daniels

USHERS – Natalie, John, Tessa & Jack Bartlett

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our mom and grandma, Charlotte Chaffee, by the Chaffee family.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in lasting and loving memory of my husband, Bill, and my brother, Bob Halttunen, by Janet Kent.

Our thanks to Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski, our children, and the Mercyhurst Liturgical Dancers for the joyful Palm Sunday Procession! We also thank the readers for enriching our hearing of the Passion narrative.

Today's Events

The Mercyhurst Liturgical Dance Ensemble under the direction of C. Noelle Partusch will participate in our 10:30am Palm Sunday service this morning. They will lead the Palm Processional and enhance portions of our liturgical singing with liturgical dance.

First Holy Communion students will gather for their final class this morning at 9:30. Students will receive their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at the 7:00pm service.

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.

Easter egg hunt for children through grade 5 will be held after worship today at 12:00 noon. Following our hunt for eggs we will watch the movie "The Prince of Egypt". We hope to see you there!

Hamloaf orders are available for pick up this morning. Please see Beth Keller or stop down to the fellowship hall kitchen to pick up your order. Thank you.

Today's Events

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.

Pastor Jay's Drop-In Hours and Locations

For the week of April 2, Pastor Jay is available by appointment only (it's Holy Week, after all). You may always meet with Pastor Jay by appointment: JMitchell@luthermemorialonline.org or by using: calendly.com/TheRevJCM.

Worship

The **Prelude** brings us together for the beginning of our worship service each Sunday morning. Our worship time together concludes when the Postlude is complete. We ask that the chancel area remain unoccupied during these times of music as live video streaming continues through the entire worship service. Thank you.

Christian Education

Children's Church classes for PreK – grade 6 will meet on the third Sunday of the month from 9:30 – 10:15am in April and May. We hope to see many smiling faces on Sunday, April 16 and Sunday, May 21.

Supporting Luther Memorial

Offerings to Luther Memorial can be made in various ways; the use of offering envelopes, contributing online by going to our website or by setting up an automatic withdrawal by speaking with Miriam, our Parish Manager. Another option will soon be introduced; a QR code will be located in the bulletins and by scanning this with your smartphones an offering can be made. Your offerings enable Luther Memorial to continue the many ministries which bring us together; children and youth programming, music programs, fellowship gatherings, outreach ministries and more.

Ascension of Our Lord

A **festival service** celebrating the **Ascension of Our Lord** will be held at Luther Memorial on the evening of Thursday, May 18. All of the Erie County ELCA churches will be invited to participate and Bishop Lozano will be preaching. If you would like to sing in the massed choir for this service (*hymns, liturgy, psalm*) please contact Walt Gaber (WaltGaber@gmail.com, 814.602.2755). Information will be provided about the music and a single rehearsal to be held just prior to the worship service.

We will also present one of **J.S. Bach's Ascension cantatas** during the service. As in our previous Bach Cantata Vespers, this cantata will be sung in its original German and accompanied by a small orchestra. Much of the cantata is sung by soloists, with the chorus singing the first and last movements. If you would like to receive more information about the music and rehearsals for the cantata, please contact Walt Gaber immediately and plan to attend the **rehearsal today from noon to 1:15**.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group is ready to hop into spring! Bring those beautiful pastels and join us the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00-12:00pm. We look forward to our wonderful mornings together knitting and crocheting on April 11 and 25. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes and let us know if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

The Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park, 1338 East Grandview Blvd., is where you'll want to be on Sunday, April 16. Bring the family and have some fun from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. Luther Memorial will cover the cost of 1 ½ hours of jump time. Families are asked to pay for jump socks (\$4) and any snacks purchased. Please RSVP to Sarah Prylinski at 814-882-1695.

Supporting our Youth

Silent Auction bids will be accepted Sunday, April 23 – Sunday, May 7. A variety of items will be available in the parlor for your bidding. Bids may be placed throughout the week by

1. Completing a bid form and placing in the labeled box in the parlor or dropping off in the church office
2. Contacting Norma in our church office at nbuerk@luthermemorialonline.org or 814-454-0106, ext. 221
3. Giving your form to Beth Keller

Be sure to check the bulletin board outside the parlor to see the current high bid for each item.

All proceeds from our Silent Auction will be used for our youth who will be traveling to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2024 and to help the church defer costs for our youth attending confirmation camp.

Outreach

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to those in our sister congregation, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, on Thursday, April 27. Prior to Covid, congregations in our Erie Conference provided dinner once a month to approximately 40-50 people. Our volunteers will prepare and serve the meal and clean up following. Sloppy Joes are the suggested main course along with fruit and/or vegetable, bottled water and/or juice and dessert. The meal can be prepared at Luther Memorial and taken to Holy Trinity. Access to Holy Trinity will be at 4:00pm; dinner begins at 5:00pm. For more information, please contact Norma in the church office.

Luther Memorial Academy

LMA's Lego League team has been invited to a FIRST Lego League tournament at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts June 9-11, 2023. This is a huge opportunity for the LMA team and they are proud to represent LMA & Erie County. To make this happen for our team, it is necessary to raise \$845 per student, which means a total of \$5,915 for the team. If you are aware of an area business that would like to sponsor our Lego League, please share the information with the school office. Every little bit helps & all donation and sponsorship can be mailed or dropped off in the school office. Be sure to make checks payable to LMA & earmark them for Lego League. Thank you.

Items to Note

Parking in the lot across from 11th Street is not permitted. Please do not park in this area as your car will be towed. Thank you.

In case of an emergency please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday

7:00pm Worship ~ *Main Church*
Holy Communion Students
commune / Stripping of the Altar



Good Friday ~ April 7

7:00pm Worship Service
Main Church



Easter Sunday

8:15am Worship with Holy Commu
Main Church
10:30am Worship with Holy Communion
Main Church



CALENDAR

MONDAY, APRIL 3

TUESDAY, APRIL 4	8:30am	LMA World's Fair
	12:00pm	Deborah Circle
	3:00pm	W/ELCA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

THURSDAY, APRIL 6	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7:00pm	Worship Service
	8:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
		LMA Closed

FRIDAY, APRIL 7	7:00pm	Worship Service
<i>Good Friday</i>		Church offices & LMA Closed

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY

We look forward to worshipping with you at our 8:15 or 10:30am services on Easter Sunday.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Pam Masiroff
Greeters	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Emma Chaffee, Ann Flick
Counters	10:30am	Dave Kinzig, Natalie Montero

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Cathy & Don MacGregor	C. Noelle Partusch	Chickie Braine	Mike Daniels
Paul Meucci	Dave Birkner	Torsten Carlson	Julie Sturm
Friends and Family:			
Dennis & Lori Sander	Elayne Morphy	June Madurski	Edie Jackman
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Branden Jones
Mark Smith	Nichole Jones	Bob Guenther	Christine Norris
Jessica & Damian Ream	Elise VanDamia	Gary Flick	Meghan Kessler
Austin Coverdale	Kevin	Tom Wilson	Dawn Weborg
Baby Archer Bardwell	Curtis Krick	Tom Braendel	Susan Brooks
Abbie (Treiber) Dixon	Debbie	Caitlyn Kessler	Michele Seifert
Megan Bruno	Barbara Dennison	Diane Henry	Kate Collins
Grief:			
Bill Youngman family	J. David Mumford family		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			