

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION



the good news is...

inspiring us to act



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRELUDE

PROCESSION WITH PALMS*

P: Will you follow? Will you lay down your coat?
 Will you lay down something important? Will you shout "Hosanna"?
 Will you join the parade? Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse?
 Will you cut down a palm branch? Will you wave it in the air?
 Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?
 Will you let this good news inspire you to act?

**C: We will. We will sing. We will pay close attention.
 We will worship. We will follow.**

P: Hosanna in the highest!

C: Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL READING: MATTHEW 21: 1-11

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 he will send them 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 he 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: Word of God, Word of Life.

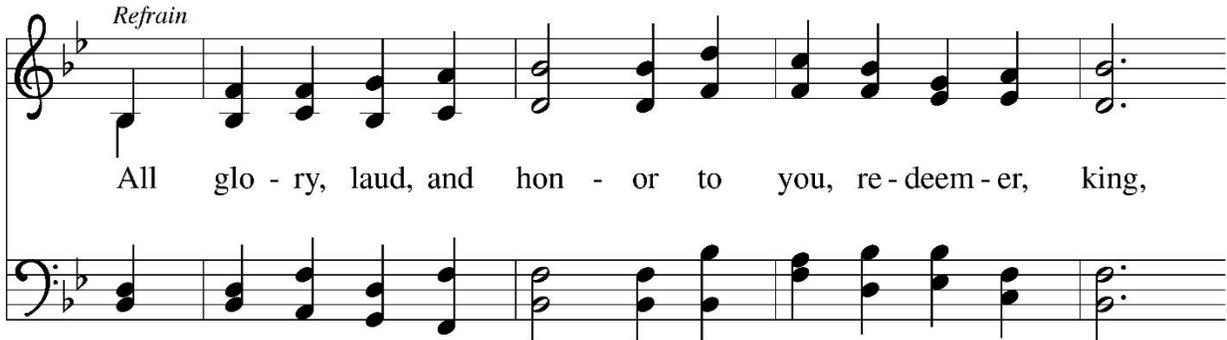
C: Thanks be to God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*

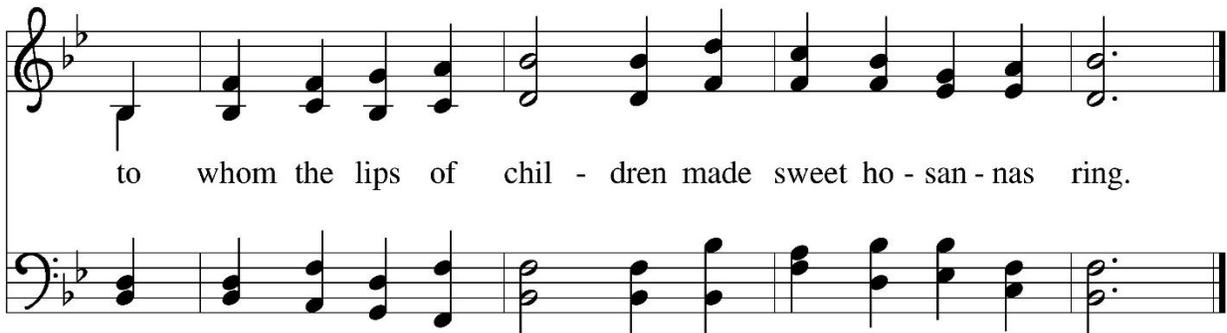
All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

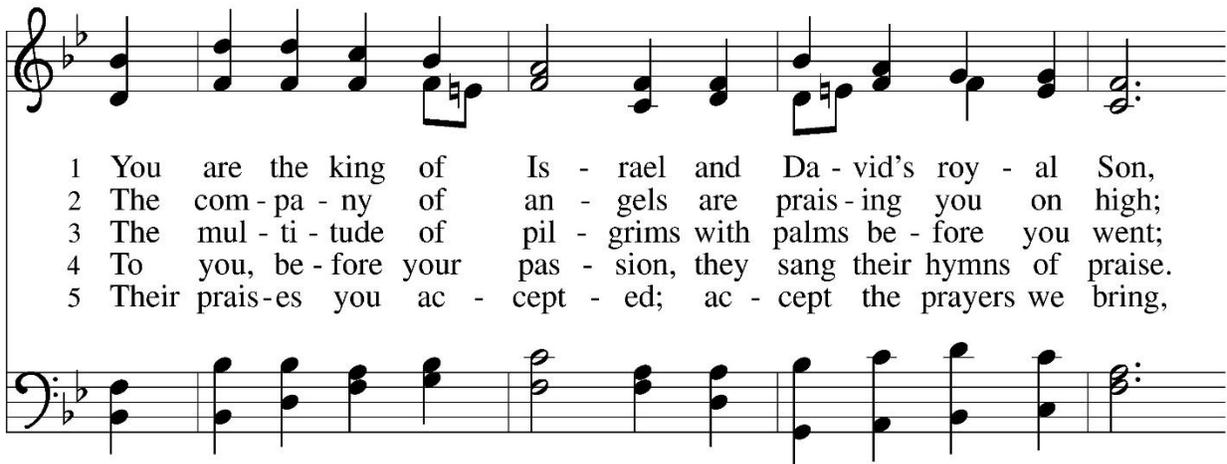
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

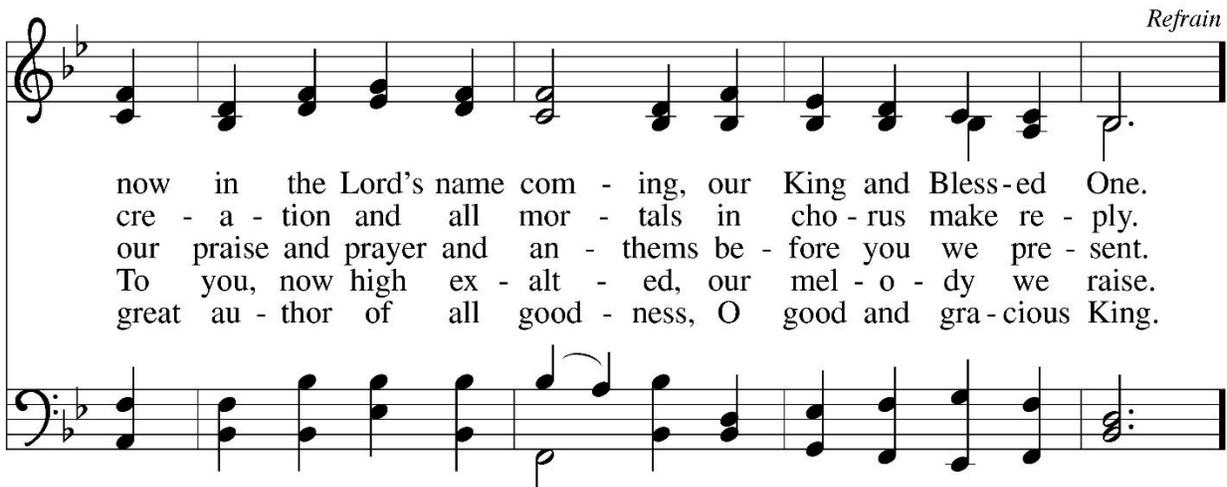


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



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,

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.

***BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

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, he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Please raise your palm branches for the blessing.

Bless these branches and those who carry 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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: The very first Palm Sunday was a day of action. It was a day of movement, of crowded city streets, and cries of "Hosanna!" It was a day of peaceful protest and dreams for a better world. The first Palm Sunday was a day of peaceful, hopeful action. So friends, on this Palm Sunday, let us join the saints before us in an act of faith. Let us begin with an act of prayer, an act of honesty, an act of transformation. Let us begin by drawing close to God and sharing the truth of our lives. Let us begin with confession. Join me in prayer:

C: Prayer of confession Jesus of Nazareth, we know that you spent your days teaching and healing. You marched through the streets and walked on water. You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables. Your good news was not confined to conversation. It was not confined to the Temple. Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world. Holy God, we long for a faith like that. Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon. Inspire us to love as you loved. Inspire us to act. With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen.

P: Church family, whether or not you wave your palm branch, whether or not you live out your faith, whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions, God will never stop loving you. Jesus will never stop marching for you. The Spirit will never stop listening to you.

C: We are claimed, loved, and held in grace. What good, good news. Amen!

Leader: In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer -
 - cy up - on us.
 Chri - ste e - lei - son. Christ, have mer -
 - cy up - on us.

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

ALL:

A - men, A - men. *rit.*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to God's peo - ple on
earth. Lord God, Hea - ven-ly King, Al-might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor-
- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-
- est and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. You are sea -
- ted at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For you a-lone

***GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

C: **And also, with you.**

P: Let us Pray. Holy One...Give us the wisdom to act on their truth. We are listening.

C: **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

WORD

MATTHEW 27: 11-54

P: The Passion of Christ, according to St. Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 he gave him 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 he 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 he 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 him 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."

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 he 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. 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!"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY*

O Savior, Precious Savior

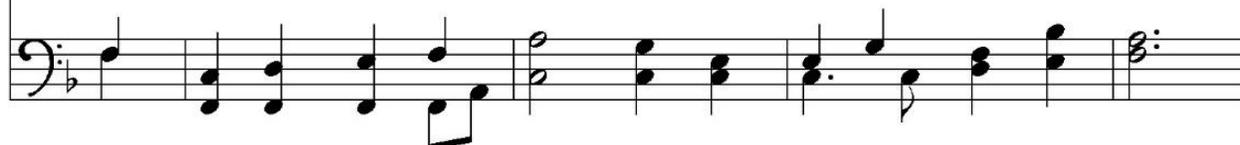
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O Savior, Precious Savior



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,
3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;
4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:
thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:
the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.
and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!



*STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead; on the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: God of the peaceful parade, God of the humble entry, God of the people and the song, we come to you today with the prayers of our hearts. We come to you today because we know that you are a God who listens. You are a God who walks with us. You are a God who acts, and for that, we are grateful.

So today, Holy One, we pray for guidance. Like Jesus, we want to act upon our beliefs. We want to allow the good news of the gospel to move through us. We want to gather people together. We want to move toward something good, but we admit, we are often unsure of what to do. We are unsure of the steps to take. We are unsure of the road before us.

Today, we pray for. Rosemary Rizzo, Tony Rizzo, Erin Jankowski, Dee Marinov, John Veihdeffer, Sarah Burke, and all those we name in our hearts.

So today we pray— give us strength. Give us the strength to live like the crowds that day in Jerusalem. Where they held palm branches, may we hold a hand out to our neighbor. May we hold open the door for each other. May we hold onto hope. Where they cried "Hosanna," may we cry out for justice. May we cry out with joy. May we cry out to you.

Where they laid down their coats, may we lay down our resources— our energy, our creativity, and our time— so that we can build your promised day here.

We do not want to simply talk about our faith. We want to act on it, so may this prayer be the first step. May this prayer, and the earnestness in our hearts, move us closer to you.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace*

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share God's peace with each other now.

MEAL
OFFERING & SETTING THE TABLE
***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord; _____ Fill to the

brim our cup of bless - ings. _____ Gath - er the har - vest from the seeds that were

sown _____ And be fed with the bread of _____ life. _____ Gath - er the hopes and the

dreams of all; _____ U - nite them with the prayers _____ we of - fer _____ now. _____

Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence; _____ Give us a fore - taste of the feast, _____

Give us a fore - taste of the feast, _____ Give us a fore - taste of the feast to come. _____

***OFFERING PRAYER**

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

Leader: ALL: Leader: 3

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: Leader:

We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Mmmm Mmmm

Leader: 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 God, through our Savior, Je-sus Christ, who on this day over came death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sing each line twice

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might

2. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho-san - na in the high - est

3. Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might

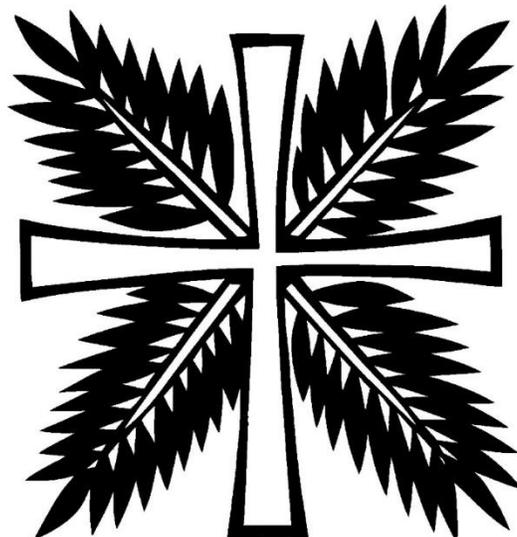
Words of Institution

- P: In 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, 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.
With cries of "Hosanna!" on our tongues, we join our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying . .
- 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.**

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P: We believe in a table-setting God
C: who always has a seat saved for you.
- P: We believe in an inviting God
C: who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended.
- P: We believe in a radically welcoming God
C: who eats with the overlooked and the outcast, the hungry and the downtrodden.
- P: We believe in the good news of the gospel, which reminds us
C: That all are welcomed, all are celebrated, all are loved, and all are claimed.
- P: Pull up a seat at God's table.
C: There is good news to be shared here. Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC



LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. _____



Have _____ mer - cy on us. _____



Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. _____



Have _____ mer - cy on us. _____

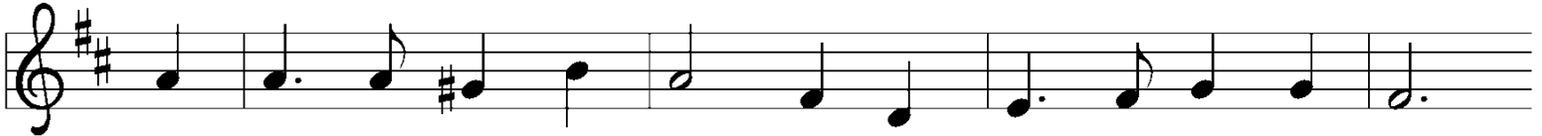


Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. _____



Grant _____ us peace. _____

Beneath the Cross of Jesus



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

P: And now may this, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace forever.

C: **Amen.**

A: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING BLESSING

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve in love

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Sending Hymn *

Go to Dark Gethsemane
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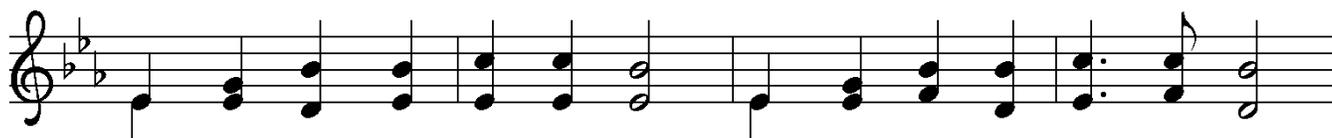
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POSTLUDE

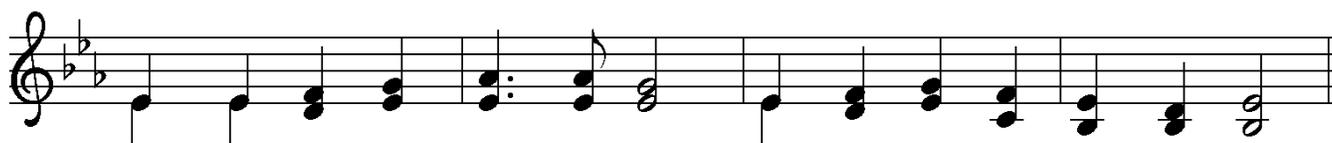
Go to Dark Gethsemane



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 - rained;
 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.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WORDS FOR WORSHIP



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Prayers and Words for Worship by Rev. Anna Strickland

MUSIC

CCLI account number is: 2782019

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Text Acknowledgments for Behold, I Make All Things New, music by Benjamin Splichal Larson

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KYRIE

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

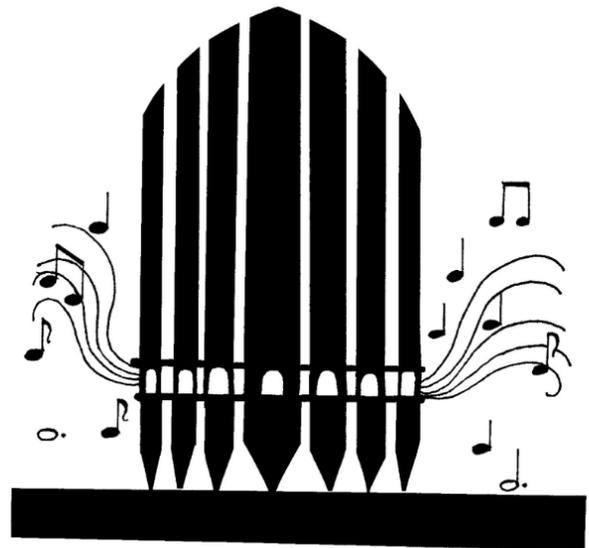
Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship, based on Psalm 119:41-42. Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Scripture references noted as NRSV are from New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Ben's Liturgy
"Behold, I Make All Things New"
by Ben Splichal Larson
Transcribed, Music Engraved, and Arranged by
Cory Clay/BMI



COVER IMAGE

Paul Omen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAY FOR...

GEORGE TROESTER- SON OF MAUREEN SIETESKI

MAYA CHAKRABORTY

KATHERINE SIKORSKI

ANGELA ROESER

EMILY- NIECE OF PATTY WALKER

FRANK SENN- BROTHER OF NANCY NOBLE

JANICE DARVEAU- FRIEND OF KATHY BUSDIECKER

DAVID JINKS- FATHER OF SARAH KUEHFUS

DIANE BYERS- FRIEND OF NANCY STOEHR

REED AND MARSHALL WHITE- COUSINS OF NANCY STOEHR

PR. BILL SEIBERT- FORMER PASTOR OF ST. PAUL'S

KEVIN MACIVER- SECOND COUSIN OF ANNETTE BERG

WANDA ZYGMUNTOWICZ- FRIEND OF JOE SOMMA

ROSEMARY RIZZO

TONY RIZZO

ERIN JANKOWSKI

DEE MARINOV

MARYANN AND CHIP

ORLANDO

JOHN VEIDEFFER

SARAH BURKE



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday- April 2

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday- April 3

2:00pm Liturgy of the Cross

7:00pm Tenebrae Service

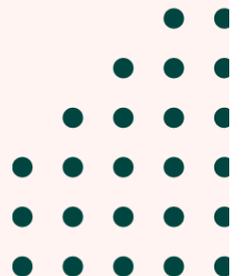
Holy Saturday- April 4

7:00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday- April 5

10:00am Easter Worship

Following service today, all are welcome to join us for a pancake breakfast as we celebrate our youth who received their first Holy Communion this morning!



True Humility

The servanthood of a teacher in Isaiah, the outcast in the psalm, those who bow down in Philippians: today's readings teach humility. On this day we move from Christ's triumphant ride on a humble donkey to the humiliation of the cross. The humility of the characters in the passion story is in question: Judas, Pilate, the Twelve, chief priests and elders, Barabbas, the crowd, the soldiers, two bandits. Among other things, their lack of humility is what brings about the passion of Christ. There is only one truly humble person in this story: Jesus the Christ. Matthew's humble Jesus cries out from the cross to ask God why he has been forsaken.

Only in the stories of the resurrection do other humble characters appear: the centurion, the women, Joseph of Arimathea. A careful look at the complexity of humility in the palm and passion stories could set up a reflective theme carried through to Easter. Who in each story do we regard as humble? Why? How does our humility compare? Are there characters who seem to gain or lose humility in the course of the story from the triumphant entry to the resurrection? A deep and meaningful understanding of humility is a worthy and lasting gift to take away from the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter.

Joseph of Arimathea is a particularly good character on which to base an understanding of humility. A close look at all references to him in the Gospels, and a bit of creative narrative, create an image of a truly humble believer. He is referenced in both canonical and apocryphal texts. His devotion represents deep humility that leads to the very finest of good works as he cares for the body of Jesus.

PREACHER/PRESIDER
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