

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalm 46:7 "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold."

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Sunday of the Passion
April 13, 2025
8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Acolyte: Brady Sickles & Beckett Horswill

Lector: Sue Weum

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Crown Him With Many Crowns" Elvey/Hopson

Stand

P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna to the Son of David.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

Lector: After saying these things, Jesus headed straight up to Jerusalem.

When he got near Bethphage and Bethany at the mountain called Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions:

Jesus (All): Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, "What are you doing?" say, "His Master needs him."

Lector: The two left and found it just as he said. As they were untying the colt, its owners said, "What are you doing untying the colt?" They said,

Disciples (Women and Girls): His Master needs him.

Lector: They brought the colt to Jesus. Then, throwing their coats on its back, they helped Jesus get on. As he rode, the people gave him a grand welcome, throwing their coats on the street. Right at the crest, where Mount Olives begins its descent, the whole crowd of disciples burst into enthusiastic praise over all the mighty works they had witnessed:

Disciples (Men and Boys): Blessed is he who comes, the king in God's name! All's well in heaven! Glory in the high places!

Lector: Some Pharisees from the crowd told him, "Teacher, get your disciples under control!" But he said,

Jesus (All): If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise.

PROCESSIONAL SONG: "King of Kings"

The congregation is invited to walk around the sanctuary, waving their branches as they sing. This year we are keeping our palms, so after circling the sanctuary return to your seat.

King of kings and Lord of lords; Glory! Hallelujah! (2 times)

Jesus, Prince of Peace; Glory! Hallelujah! (2 times)

Remain Standing

GREETING:

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

HYMN: “Ah, Holy Jesus” #349 ELW Vss. 1, 2 & 4

**Vs. 1: Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.**

**Vs. 2: Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus hath undone thee.
Twas I Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.**

**Vs. 4: For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life’s oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
For my salvation.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 22:14 – 29

Lector: When it was time, he sat down, all the apostles with him, and said,

Jesus (All): You’ve no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. It’s the last one I’ll eat until we all eat it together in the kingdom of God.

Lector: Taking the cup, he blessed it, then said,

Jesus (All): Take this and pass it among you. As for me, I’ll not drink wine again until the kingdom of God arrives.

Lector: Taking bread, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus (All): This is my body, given for you. Eat it in my memory.

Lector: He did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

Jesus (All): This cup is the new covenant written in my blood, blood poured out for you. Do you realize that the hand of the one who is betraying me is at this moment on this table? It’s true that the Son of Man is going down a path already marked out—no surprises there. But

for the one who turns him in, turns traitor to the Son of Man, this is doomsday.

Lector: They immediately became suspicious of each other and began quizzing one another, wondering who might be about to do this. Within minutes they were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest. But Jesus intervened:

Jesus (All): Kings like to throw their weight around and people in authority like to give themselves fancy titles. It's not going to be that way with you. Let the senior among you become like the junior; let the leader act the part of the servant. Who would you rather be: the one who eats the dinner or the one who serves the dinner? You'd rather eat and be served, right? But I've taken my place among you as the one who serves...

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

HOLY COMMUNION: "Remember Now, My Children"

While "Remember Now, My Children" is sung, people are invited to either commune in the pews or come forward to the communion railing, kneel and receive the bread and wine.

**Vs. 1: The night of his betrayal, our Lord took bread.
He blest it as he broke it, and then he said,
"My body broken for you, is what this means.
Remember now, my children, what you have seen.**

**Vs. 2: And then he took the chalice and raised it high.
"My blood is given for you, a full supply,
a covenant, a promise, a cleansing stream.
Remember now my children, what you have seen.**

**Vs. 3: We share this food together, remembering Christ,
we share a common treasure and know the price,
we share it without measure a gift of love,
we share our life forever with God above.**

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever

C: Amen.

HYMN: "Go the Dark Gethsemane" #347 ELW vs. 1

Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus how to pray.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 22:39-62

Lector: Leaving there, he went, as he so often did, to Mount Olives. The disciples followed him. When they arrived at the place, he said,

Jesus (All) Pray that you don't give in to temptation.

Lector: He pulled away from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

Jesus (All): Father, remove this cup from me. But please, not what I want. What do you want?

Lector: At once an angel from heaven was at his side, strengthening him. He prayed on all the harder. Sweat, wrung from him like drops of blood, poured off his face. He got up from prayer, went back to the disciples and found them asleep, drugged by grief. He said,

Jesus (All): What business do you have sleeping? Get up. Pray so you won't give in to temptation.

Lector: No sooner were the words out of his mouth than a crowd showed up, Judas, the one from the Twelve, in the lead. He came right up to Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said,

Jesus (All): Judas, you would betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

Lector: When those with him saw what was happening, they said,

Disciples (Men and Boys): Master, shall we fight?

Lector: One of them took a swing at the Chief Priest's servant and cut off his right ear.

Jesus (All): Let them be. Even in this.

Lector: Then, touching the servant’s ear, he healed him. Jesus spoke to those who had come—high priests, Temple police, religion leaders:

Jesus (All): **What is this, jumping me with swords and clubs as if I were a dangerous criminal? Day after day I’ve been with you in the Temple and you’ve not so much as lifted a hand against me. But do it your way—it’s a dark night, a dark hour.**

Lector: Arresting Jesus, they marched him off and took him into the house of the Chief Priest. Peter followed, but at a safe distance. In the middle of the courtyard some people had started a fire and were sitting around it, trying to keep warm. One of the serving maids sitting at the fire noticed him, then took a second look and said, “This man was with him!” He denied it,

Peter (All) Woman, I don’t even know him.

Lector: A short time later, someone else noticed him and said, “You’re one of them.” But Peter denied it:

Peter (All): Man, I am not.

Lector: About an hour later, someone else spoke up, really adamant: “He’s got to have been with him! He’s got ‘Galilean’ written all over him.

Peter (All): Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about.

Lector: At that very moment, the last word hardly off his lips, a rooster crowed. Just then, the Master turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered what the Master had said to him: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” He went out and cried and cried and cried.

HYMN: Go to Dark Gethsemane” #347 ELW vs. 2

**Vs. 2: Follow to the judgement hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.**

HOMILY

HYMN: Go to Dark Gethsemane” #347 ELW vs. 3

**Vs. 3: Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,**

**God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 22:63 – 71

Lector: The men in charge of Jesus began poking fun at him, slapping him around. They put a blindfold on him and taunted, "Who hit you that time?" They were having a grand time with him. When it was morning, the religious leaders of the people and the high priests and scholars all got together and brought him before their High Council. They said, "Are you the Messiah?"

Jesus (All): **If I said yes, you wouldn't believe me. If I asked what you meant by your question, you wouldn't answer me. So here's what I have to say: From here on the Son of Man takes his place at God's right hand, the place of power.**

Lector: They all said, "So you admit your claim to be the Son of God?"

Jesus (All): **You're the ones who keep saying it.**

Lector: But they had made up their minds, "Why do we need any more evidence? We've all heard him as good as say it himself."

Stand

APOSTLES CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 23: 1- 25

Lector: Then they all took Jesus to Pilate and began to bring up charges against him. They said,

Scribes and Pharisees (Men and Boys): We found this man undermining our law and order, forbidding taxes to be paid to Caesar, setting himself up as Messiah-King.

Lector: Pilate asked him,

Pilate (Women and Girls): Is this true that you're 'King of the Jews'?

Jesus (All): Those are your words, not mine.

Lector: Pilate told the high priests and the accompanying crowd,

Pilate (Women and Girls): I find nothing wrong here. He seems harmless enough to me.

Lector: But they were vehement.

Scribes and Pharisees (Men and Boys): He's stirring up unrest among the people with his teaching, disturbing the peace everywhere, starting in Galilee and now all through Judea. He's a dangerous man, endangering the peace.

Lector: When Pilate heard that, he asked,

Pilate (Women and Girls): So, he's a Galilean?

Lector: Realizing that he properly came under Herod's jurisdiction, he passed the buck to Herod, who just happened to be in Jerusalem for a few days. Herod was delighted when Jesus showed up. He had wanted for a long time to see him, he'd heard so much about him. He hoped to see him do something spectacular. He peppered him with questions. Jesus didn't answer—not one word. But the high priests and religion scholars were right there, saying their piece, strident and shrill in their accusations. Mightily offended, Herod turned on Jesus. His soldiers joined in, taunting and jeering. Then they dressed him up in an elaborate king costume and sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became thick as thieves.

Always before they had kept their distance. Then Pilate called in the high priests, rulers, and the others and said,

Pilate (Women and Girls): You brought this man to me as a disturber of the peace. I examined him in front of all of you and found there was nothing to your charge. And neither did Herod, for he has sent him back here with a clean bill of health. It's clear that he's done nothing wrong, let alone anything deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go.

Lector: At that, the crowd went wild:

Crowd (All): Kill him! Give us Barabbas!

Lector: (Barabbas had been thrown in prison for starting a riot in the city and for murder.) Pilate still wanted to let Jesus go, and so spoke out again. But they kept shouting back,

Crowd (All): Crucify! Crucify him!

Lector: He tried a third time.

Pilate (Women and Girls): But for what crime? I've found nothing in him deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go.

Lector: But they kept at it, a shouting mob, demanding that he be crucified. And finally they shouted him down. Pilate caved in and gave them what they wanted. He released the man thrown in prison for rioting and murder, and gave them Jesus to do whatever they wanted.

HYMN AND OFFERING: "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" #337 ELW

**Vs. 1: Alas! And did my Savior bleed?
And did my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?**

**Vs. 2: Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!**

**Vs. 3: Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut its glories in
When God, the mighty maker died**

For his own creatures sin.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 23: 26 – 46

Lector: As they led him off, they made Simon, a man from Cyrene who happened to be coming in from the countryside, carry the cross behind Jesus. A huge crowd of people followed, along with women weeping and carrying on... Two others, both criminals, were taken along with him for execution. When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus prayed,

Jesus (All): Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing.

Lector: Dividing up his clothes, they threw dice for them. The people stood there staring at Jesus, and the ringleaders made faces, taunting, "He saved others. Let's see him save himself! The Messiah of God—ha! The Chosen—ha!" The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him, making a game of it. They toasted him with sour wine: "So you're King of the Jews! Save yourself!" Printed over him was a sign: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him: "

Criminal 1 (Women and Girls) Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!

Lector: But the other one made him shut up:

Criminal 2 (Men and Boys): Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same as him. We deserve this, but not him—he did nothing to deserve this.

Lector: Then he said,

Criminal 2 (Men and Boys): Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom.

Jesus (All): Don't worry, I will. Today you will join me in paradise.

Lector: By now it was noon. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours—a total blackout. The Temple curtain split right down the middle. Jesus called loudly, "Father, I place my life in your hands!" Then he breathed his last.

HYMN: "They Crucified My Lord" #350 ELW

**Vs. 1: The crucified my Lord,
and he never said a mumbalin' word; (2 times)
Not a word, not a word, not a word.**

**Vs. 2: They nailed him to a tree,
and he never said a mumbalin' word; (2 times)
Not a word, not a word, not a word.**

**Vs. 3: He hung his head and died,
and he never said a mumbalin' word; (2 times)
Not a word, not a word, not a word.**

ANNOUCEMENTS

Stand

BENEDICTION

P: God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "At the Cross" set by Stazeski