

Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Sunday of the Passion

March 29, 2026

9:15 a.m. Worship Lite

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

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Acolyte: Autumn Wendorf

Lector: Mike Warwick

Ushers: Stephen & Lucas Peterson

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr & Roger Slack

This coming week is a roller coaster of emotions from the highest of high to the lowest of lows. Today the crowd shouts "Hosanna! Blessed be God's King!" but on Friday the same people shout "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Monk/Groth Hosanna Handbell Quartet

Stand

PALM SUNDAY LITANY

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: Matthew 21:1-11

Narrator: When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to

the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you." This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet: tell Zion's daughter, "Look, your king's on his way, poised and ready, mounted on a donkey, on a colt, foal of a pack animal. ⁶⁻⁹The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out,

Crowds (All): "Hosanna to David's son! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Hosanna in highest heaven!"

Narrator:¹⁰ As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?" ¹¹The parade crowd answered,

Crowd (All): This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee

PROCESSIONAL SONG: "King of Kings"

After the Sunday School Children have entered the sanctuary with their decorated wagons and instruments, the congregation is invited to walk around the sanctuary, waving their branches. The congregation returns to their pew and the children remain up front.

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

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

Sit

GATHERING SONG: "He'll Be Riding on a Donkey When He Comes"

The young people will lead us.

Vs. 1: He'll be riding on a donkey when he comes. HE-HAW! (2x)

He'll be riding on a donkey, he'll be riding on a donkey,

He'll be riding on a donkey when he comes. HE-HAW!

Vs. 2: And we'll all go out to meet him when he comes. HOW-DY! (2x)

And we'll all go out to meet him and we'll all go out to meet him

And we'll all go out to meet him when he comes. HOW-DY!

Vs. 3: And we'll all wave palm branches when he comes (2 x)

**And we'll all wave palm branches and we'll all wave palm branches
And we'll all wave palm branches when he comes.**

**Vs. 4: And we'll all shout "Hosanna" when he comes. HOSANNA! (2x)
And we'll all shout "Hosanna" and we'll all shout "Hosanna"
And we'll all shout "Hosanna" when he comes. Hosanna!!!**

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 26:14 – 30

Narrator: That is when one of the Twelve, the one named Judas Iscariot, went to the cabal of high priests and said, "What will you give me if I hand him over to you?" They settled on thirty silver pieces. He began looking for just the right moment to hand him over. ¹⁷ On the first of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare your Passover meal?"

Jesus (All): Enter the city. Go up to a certain man and say, 'The Teacher says, My time is near. I and my disciples plan to celebrate the Passover meal at your house'.

Narrator: The disciples followed Jesus' instructions to the letter, and prepared the Passover meal. After sunset, he and the Twelve were sitting around the table. During the meal, he said,

Jesus (All): I have something hard but important to say to you: One of you is going to hand me over to the conspirators.

Narrator: ²² They were stunned, and then began to ask, one after another, "It isn't me, is it, Master?" ²³⁻²⁴ Jesus answered,

Jesus (All): The one who hands me over is someone I eat with daily, one who passes me food at the table. In one sense the Son of Man is entering into a way of treachery well-marked by the Scriptures—no surprises here. In another sense that man who turns him in, turns traitor to the Son of Man—better never to have been born than do this!

Narrator: ²⁵ Then Judas, already turned traitor, said, "It isn't me, is it, Rabbi?" Jesus said,

Jesus (All): Don't play games with me, Judas.

Narrator: ²⁶⁻²⁹ During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples:

Jesus (All): Take, eat. This is my body.

Narrator: Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

Jesus (All): Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, God's new covenant poured out for many people for the forgiveness of sins. I'll not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I'll drink with you in the kingdom of my Father.

Narrator: ³⁰They sang a hymn and went directly to Mount Olives.

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: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

HYMN AND OFFERING: “Go the Dark Gethsemane” #347 ELW

**Vs. 1: Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempters pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

3 YEAR OLDS RECEIVE BIBLES

*We take a look into the 3-Year-Old Bible to see what happens after supper.
Parents Bring your 3-year-olds forward to receive their Bibles*

HOMILY

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

**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 no suff'ring, shame and loss;
Learn from him to bear the cross.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 27:11-26

Narrator: ¹¹ Jesus was placed before the governor, who questioned him: “Are you the ‘King of the Jews’?” Jesus said, “If you say so.” ¹²⁻¹⁴ But when the accusations rained down hot and heavy from the high priests and religious leaders, he said nothing. Pilate asked him, “Do you hear that long list of accusations? Aren’t you going to say something?” Jesus kept silence—not a word from his mouth. The governor was impressed, really impressed.

¹⁵⁻¹⁸ It was an old custom during the Feast for the governor to pardon a single prisoner named by the crowd. At the time, they had the infamous Jesus Barabbas in prison. With the crowd before him, Pilate said, “Which prisoner do you want me to pardon: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus the so-called Christ?” He knew it was through sheer spite that they had turned Jesus over to him.

¹⁹ While court was still in session, Pilate’s wife sent him a message: “Don’t get mixed up in judging this noble man. I’ve just been through a long and troubled night because of a dream about him.” ²⁰ Meanwhile, the high priests and religious leaders had talked the crowd into asking for the pardon of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. ²¹ The governor asked, “Which of the two do you want me to pardon?” They said,

Crowd (All): Barabbas!

Narrator: ²² “Then what do I do with Jesus, the so-called Christ?” They all shouted,

Crowd (All): Nail him to a cross!

Narrator: ²³ He objected, “But for what crime?” But they yelled all the louder,

Crowd (All): Nail him to a cross!

Narrator: ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere and that a riot was imminent, he took a basin of water and washed his hands in full sight of the crowd, saying, “I’m washing my hands of responsibility for this man’s

death. From now on, it's in your hands. You're judge and jury." ²⁵The crowd answered,

Crowd (All): We'll take the blame, we and our children after us.

Narrator: ²⁶Then he pardoned Barabbas. But he had Jesus whipped, and then handed over for crucifixion.

2nd GRADE TELLS THE REST OF THE STORY

HYMN: "They Crucified My Lord" #350 ELW Vss. 1-3

**Vs. 1: They 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 "Were You There? Set by Wold