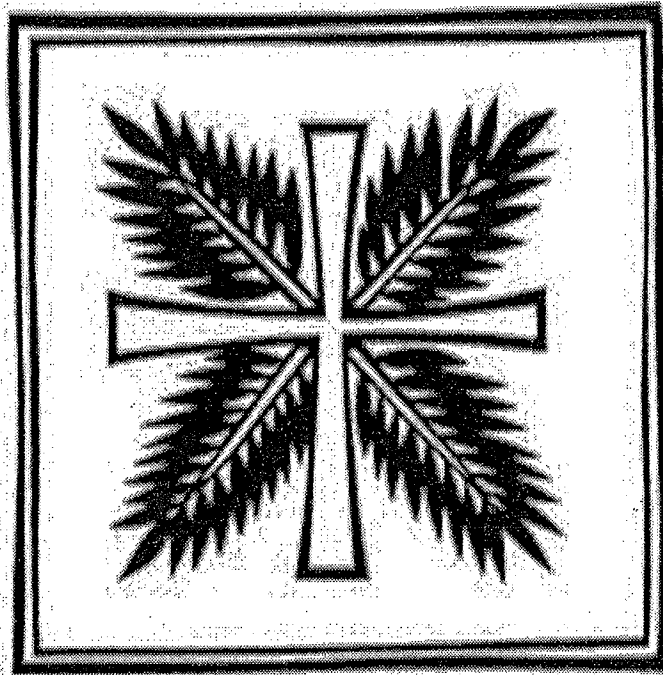


Welcome to
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Loving God, Serving Others
Sunday of Passion/Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024 - 9:30 am



This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
1915 N First St, DeKalb IL 60115
(815) 758-3203
Rev. Sharon Rogers
Michael Graddy, Musician

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! We're honored to have you.

PROCESSION OF PALMS

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: John 12:12-16

The gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²[Five days before the Passover] the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!”

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

¹⁵“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!”

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

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.

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. **Amen.**

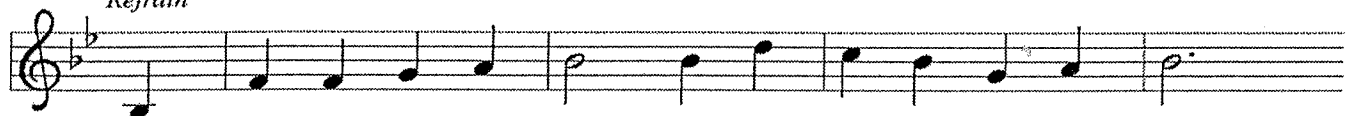
PROCESSION

Let us go forth in peace.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

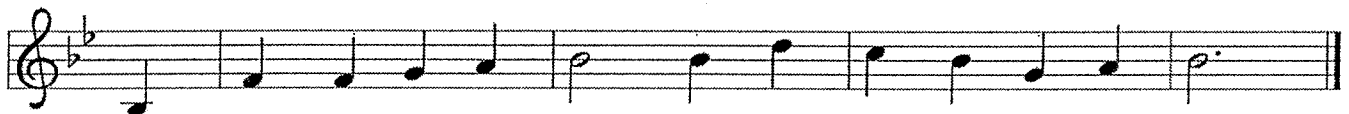
GATHERING HYMN ELW 344

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain



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

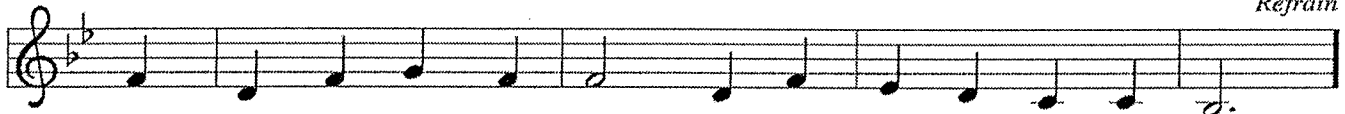


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



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

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

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he 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;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16

- ⁹Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
- ¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
- ¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- ¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**
- ¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
- ¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.
I have said, "You are my God.**
- ¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- ¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

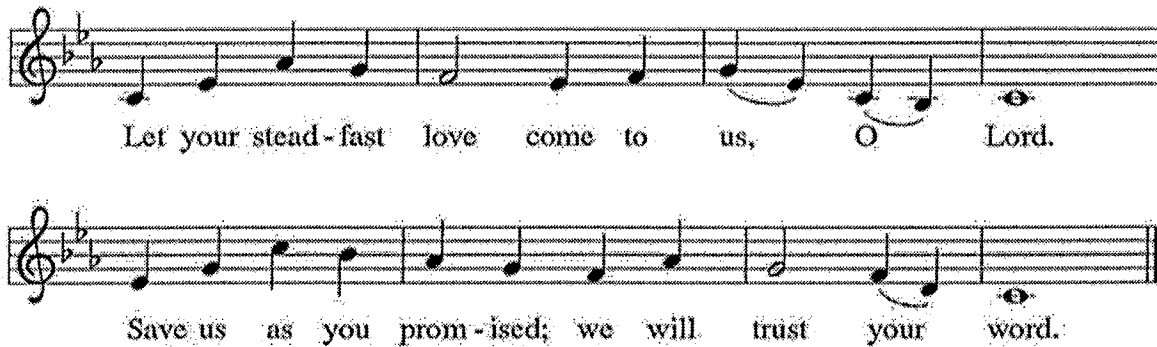
Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

- ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
- ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God!

The Passion according to Mark.



The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them.

When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money.

So Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, at evening Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

"Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, the one who is eating **with** me."

They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?"

Jesus said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me.

For 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."

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

Jesus said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

But Peter said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

And all of them said the same.

Hymn

Go to dark Gethsemane ELW 347, st. 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 Christ to pray.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.

And Jesus said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

Jesus came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?"

Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

Jesus came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

So when he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.

Then they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?"

Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

Hymn

O sacred head, now wounded ELW 351, st. 1

O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth.

They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none.

For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree.

Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"

But even on this point their testimony did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

But he was silent and did not answer.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

Hymn

O sacred head, now wounded ELW 351, st. 3

What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever,
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

But Peter denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt.

Then the cock crowed.

And the servant girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them."

But again he denied it.

Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about."

At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

And he broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so."

Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.

"But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.

So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom.

Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.

But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?"

But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!"

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Hymn

Were you there ELW 353, st. 1

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort.

And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.

And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).

And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.

And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Hymn

Were you there ELW 353, st. 3

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"
which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."
And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to
drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."
Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
Ten seconds of silence.

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
Now when the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw that in this way he breathed his
last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"
Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen
cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.
He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the
mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.
The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn

Were you there ELW 353, st. 5

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb

MESSAGE

REV. SHARON ROGERS

HYMN OF THE DAY
ELW 343 VS. 1-4

My Song Is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

- 2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!

- 3 Sometimes we strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
and for his death we thirst and cry.

- 4 We cry out; we will have
our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save,
the prince of life to slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes
that he his foes from thence might free.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Establish peace and justice among the nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give energy and joy to our pastor/s, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

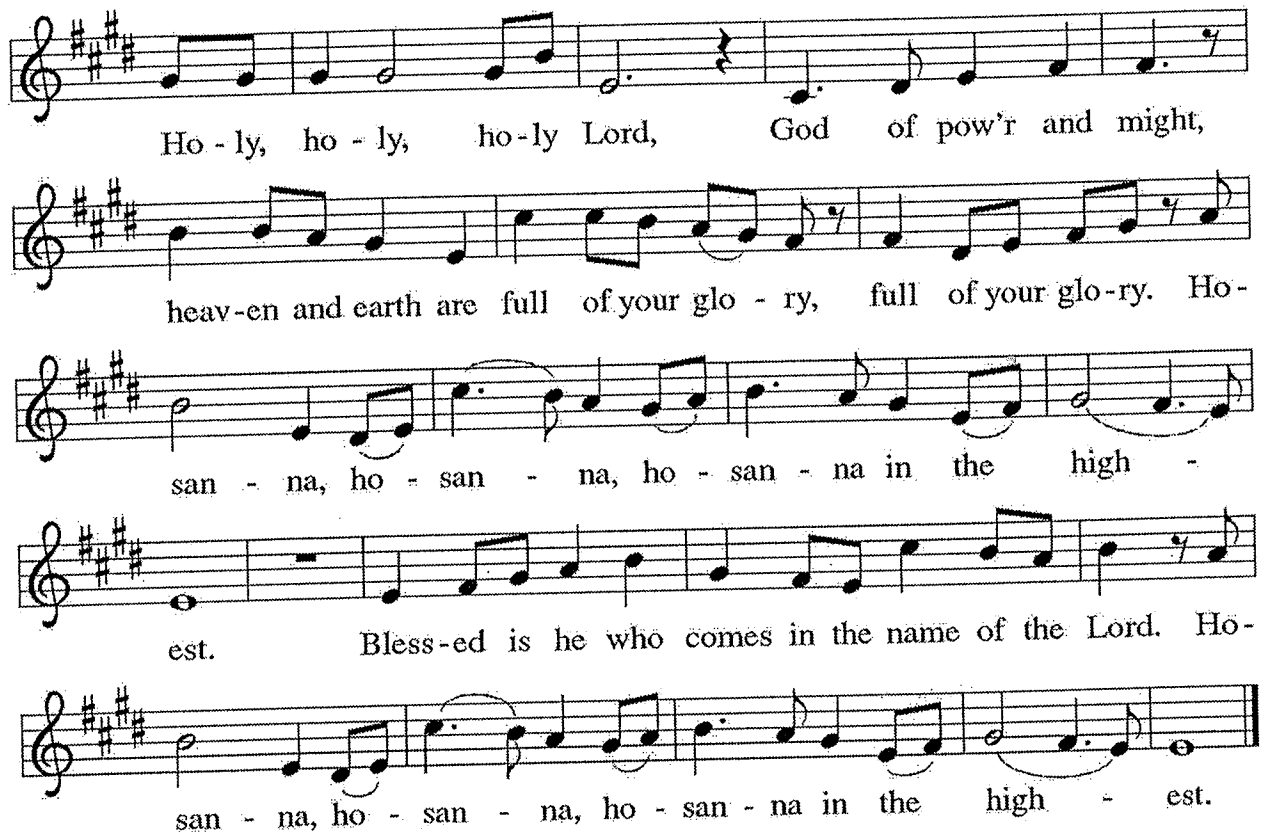
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all time and place, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

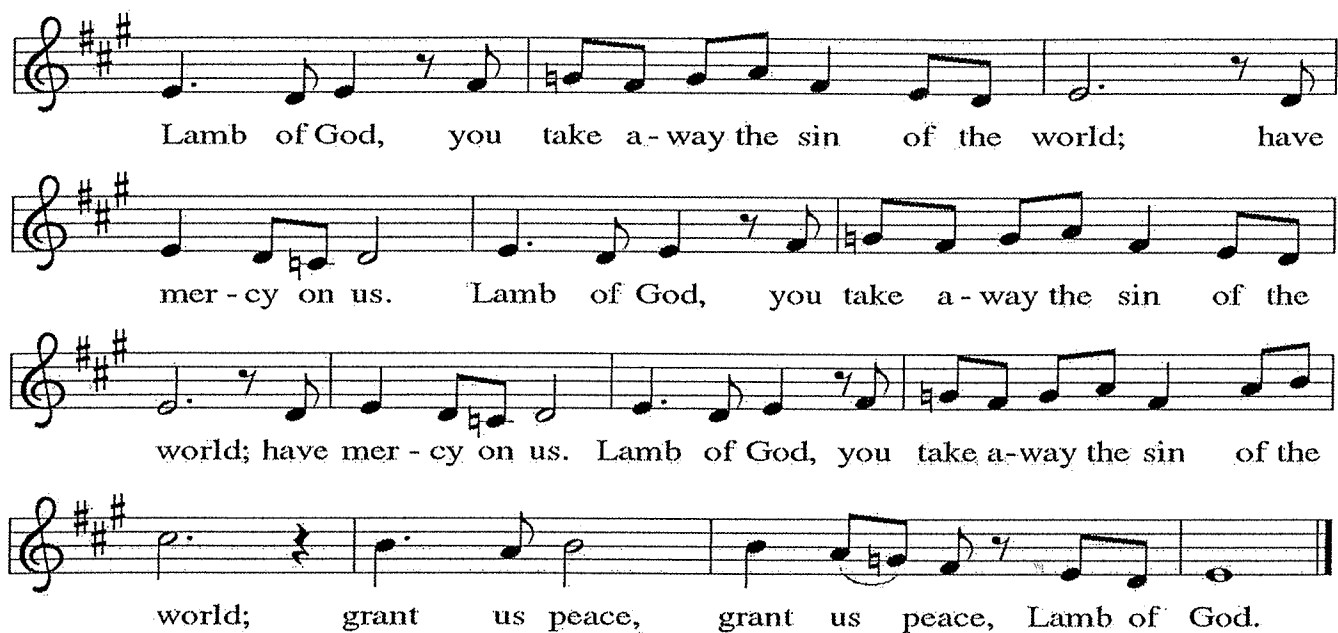
LORD'S PRAYER

**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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in his mission to the world.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN (see page 14)

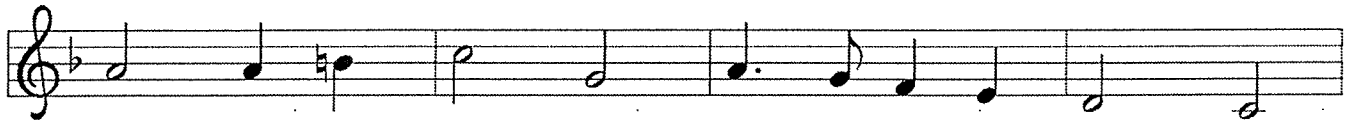
DISMISSAL

SENDING HYMN
ELW 342

There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

The Week Ahead

Monday-3/25	7:15-Food Pantry Truck Delivery 12:30—Cut-Ups
Tuesday-3/26	3-5—Feed My Sheep Food Pantry 11-12:30-Club 55 Drive-Up Food Pantry
Wednesday-3/27	10:30-Pantry Pick-up
Thursday-3/28	8:30—Pantry Pick Up 9:30-11:30 -Feed My Sheep Food Pantry 10:30-Martha's Sisters (zoom)
Saturday, 3/30	8:30/9:30—Pantry Pick up
Sunday, 3/31	9:30 am- Easter Worship

*Our offering plate is located at the rear of the sanctuary.
We give thanks to God for all of our gifts!*

Pastor Schedule

March 29—Good Friday Worship at 4 pm
March 31-Easter Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

Rev. Bob Hansen