

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



Our Mission: Love Jesus and help others love Him through word and actions.

Sunday of The Passion

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

11:15 a.m.



Welcome in the name of Jesus!

We are happy you're here. We pray that the Lord will bless your time of worship with us and give you peace in the week ahead. Newcomers are our special guests and we ask that you sign the register at the entrance to help us get to know you and be sure to pick up a gift bag from our welcome desk at either entrance.

We will gather in the Memorial Garden to process into church waving palms as we celebrate the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem!

If its raining we will gather in the Fellowship Hall.

Introduction

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.

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GATHERING

ELW Pg. 256

Gospel Acclamation

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

C: **Hosanna in the highest.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

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

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² 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. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “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.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ 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!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”



P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

BLESSING OF 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. 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.**

The congregation will follow the pastor as we process into the church. You may come to the altar and then go to the pews, or go straight to the pew.

Processional Song: *Hosanna*

REFRAIN

D A/C# D G/D A^{sus} A

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -

5 D A/C# D G/D 1. A^{sus} A (To Verses) 2. D Fine

-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na to the King. King.

VERSE

10 C Em A C Em

1. Praise Him as He en - ters the gates: Praise to Je - sus, our

King! Blest is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

D.C. al Fine

After everyone has entered the Sanctuary, we will sing the hymn:

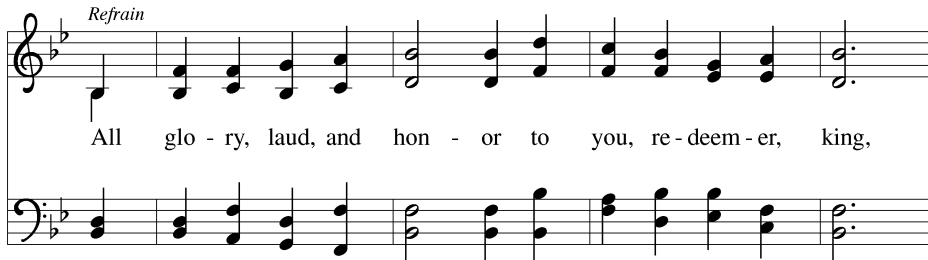
GATHERING

Gathering Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor VS 1,3,5 Only

ELW Hymn 344

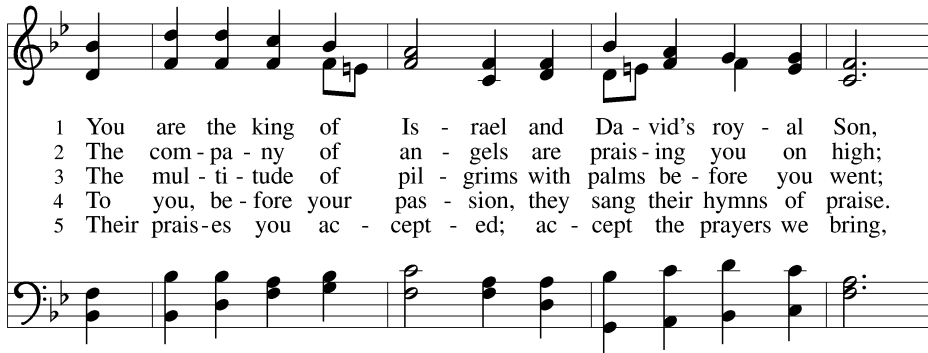
Refrain



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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. Compassionate One,

C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray...who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Young Person's Song: *Rejoice in The Lord Always* Pg. 16

Young Person's Message

WORD

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?

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Due to the length of this reading the congregation may remain seated.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:14—27:66

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 26th and 27th chapters.

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

Congregation will respond when “The Crowd” is listed.

Betrayal and Arrest

Narrator (Reader 3) ⁴⁷While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived—accompanied by a great crowd with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸Judas had arranged to give them a signal. “Whomever I embrace is the one,” he had said; “take hold of him.” ⁴⁹He immediately went over to Jesus and said, “Shalom, Rabbi!” and embraced him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to Judas,

Jesus (Reader 1) “Friend, just do what you’re here to do!”

Narrator (Reader 2) At that moment, the crowd surrounded them, laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹Suddenly, one of those who accompanied Jesus drew a sword and slashed at the high priest’s attendant, cutting off an ear. ⁵² Jesus said,

Jesus (Reader 3) “Put your sword back where it belongs. Those who live by the sword die by the sword. ⁵³Don’t you think I can call on my Abba God to provide over twelve legions of angels at a moment’s notice? ⁵⁴But then how would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen this way?” Am I a robber, that you have come armed with swords and clubs to arrest me? Every day I sat teaching in the Temple precincts, yet you never arrested me.”

Narrator (Reader 1) ⁵⁶All this happened in fulfillment of the writings of the prophets. Then all the disciples deserted Jesus and fled.

Jesus before Caiaphas

Narrator (Reader 2) ⁵⁷Those who had seized Jesus led him off to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the religious scholars and elders had convened. ⁵⁸ Peter followed at a distance as far as the high priest's residence. Going inside, Peter sat down with the guards to await the outcome. ⁵⁹The chief priests, with the whole Sanhedrin, were busy trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put him to death. ⁶⁰ They discovered none, despite the many false witnesses who took the stand.

Narrator (Reader 3) Finally two came forward ⁶¹who stated, "This man has declared, 'I can destroy God's sanctuary and rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶²The high priest rose and addressed Jesus, "Have you no answer? What about this testimony leveled against you?" ⁶³But Jesus remained silent. The high priest then said to him, "I order you to tell us under oath, before the living God, whether or not you are the Messiah, the Firstborn of God?" Jesus replied,

Jesus (Reader 1) ⁶⁴"You have said it yourself. But I tell you: soon you will see the Chosen One seated at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Narrator (Reader 2) ⁶⁵At this, the high priest tore his robes and said, "Blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? You yourselves have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶What is your verdict?" They responded, "He deserves death!" ⁶⁷Then they spat at his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped Jesus, ⁶⁸saying, "Play the prophet for us, Messiah! Who struck you?"

Peter Denies Jesus

Narrator (Reader 3) ⁶⁹While this was happening, Peter was sitting in the courtyard. One of the attendants came over and said, "You were with Jesus the Galilean too, weren't you?" ⁷⁰But Peter denied it in front of everyone. He said, "I don't know what you're talking about!" ⁷¹When Peter went out to the gate, another attendant saw him and said to those nearby, "This one was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷²Again he cursed and denied it: "I don't know him!"

Narrator (Reader 1) ⁷³A little while later, some bystanders came over to Peter and said, "You certainly are one of them! Even your accent gives you away!" ⁷⁴At that, Peter began cursing and swore, "I don't know the man!" Just then a rooster began to crow, ⁷⁵and Peter remembered the prediction Jesus had made: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." Peter went out and cried bitterly.

Jesus Sent to Pilate; Judas Despairs

Narrator (Reader 2) ^{27: 1}At daybreak, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took formal action against Jesus to put him to death. ² They bound him and led him away to be handed over to Pilate, the governor.

Narrator (Reader 3) ³When he saw that Jesus had been condemned, Judas, who had betrayed Jesus, felt remorse. He took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders, ⁴and said, "I have sinned! I have betrayed innocent blood!" "What's that to us?" they answered. "That's your affair!" ⁵So Judas flung the money into the sanctuary and left. Then he went off and hanged himself. ⁶The chief priests picked up the silver, observing, "It's against the Law to deposit this in the Temple treasury, since it is blood money." ⁷After some discussion, they used the money to buy Potter's Field as a cemetery for foreigners. ⁸ That is why that field, even today, is called Blood Field. ...

Narrator (Reader 1) ¹¹ Then Jesus was arraigned before Pontius Pilate, the governor, who questioned him. "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied,

Jesus (Reader 2) "You say that I am."

Narrator (Reader 3) ¹²Yet when Jesus was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no reply. ¹³Pilate said to Jesus, "Surely you hear how many charges they bring against you?" ¹⁴But Jesus did not answer Pilate on a single count, much to the governor's surprise.

Narrator (Reader 1) ¹⁵Now, on the occasion of a festival, the governor was accustomed to release one prisoner, whomever the crowd would designate.

¹⁶At the time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. ¹⁷So when the crowd gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you wish me to release for you? Barabbas? Or Jesus, the so-called Messiah?" ¹⁸Pilate knew, of course, that it was out of jealousy that they had handed Jesus over. ¹⁹While Pilate was still presiding on the bench, his wife sent him a message:

Pilate's Wife (Reader 2) "Have nothing to do with that innocent man. I had a dream about him last night which has been troubling me all day long."

Narrator (Reader 3) ²⁰But the chief priests and elders convinced the crowds that they should ask for Barabbas, and have Jesus put to death. ²¹ So when the governor asked them, "Which one do you wish me to release for you?" they all cried,

Pilate (Reader 3) ²²Pilate said to them, “Then what am I to do with Jesus, the so-called Messiah?”

Crowd “Crucify him!”

Pilate (Reader 1) ²³ “Why? What crime has he committed?” Pilate asked. But they only shouted louder,

Crowd “Crucify him!”

Narrator (Reader 2) ²⁴Pilate finally realized that he was getting nowhere with this—in fact, a riot was breaking out. Pilate called for water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, declaring as he did so, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. The responsibility is yours.” ²⁶At that, Pilate released Barabbas to them.

Jesus Humiliated, and taken to the Place of Crucifixion

Narrator (Reader 3) Pilate had Jesus whipped with a cat-o’-nine-tails, then handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ The governor’s soldiers took Jesus inside the Praetorium and assembled the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped off his clothes and wrapped him in a scarlet military cloak. ²⁹ Weaving a crown out of thorns, they pressed it onto his head and stuck a reed in his right hand. Then they began to mock Jesus by dropping to their knees, saying, “All hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰ They also spat at him. Afterward they took hold of the reed and struck Jesus on the head.

Narrator (Reader 1) ¹Finally, when they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes and led him off to crucifixion. ³²On their way out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon, whom they pressed into service to carry the cross. ³³ Upon arriving at a site called Golgotha—which means Skull Place— ³⁴they gave Jesus a drink of wine mixed with a narcotic herb, which Jesus tasted but refused to drink. ³⁵Once they had nailed Jesus to the cross, they divided his clothes among them by rolling dice; ³⁶ then they sat down and kept watch over him. ³⁷Above his head, they put the charge against him in writing: “This is Jesus, King of the Jews.”

The Cross

Narrator (Reader 2) ³⁸Two robbers were crucified along with Jesus, one at his right and one at his left. ³⁹People going by insulted Jesus, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying,

Crowd “So you are the one who was going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself, why don’t you? Come down off that cross if you are God’s Own!”

Narrator (Reader 2) ⁴¹The religious authorities also joined in the jeering:

Crowd ⁴²“He saved others but he cannot save himself! So he’s the King of Israel! Let’s see him come down from that cross, and then we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God rescue him now! after all, he claimed to be God’s Own!”

Narrator (Reader 2) ⁴⁴The robbers who had been crucified with Jesus jeered at him in the same way.

Jesus Dies

Narrator (Reader 3) ⁴⁵At noon, a darkness fell over the whole land until about three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶At that hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

Jesus (Reader 1) “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Narrator (Reader 2) ⁴⁷This made some of the bystanders who heard it remark, “He is calling for Elijah!” ⁴⁸One of them hurried off and got a sponge. He soaked the sponge in cheap wine and, sticking it on a reed, tried to make Jesus drink. ⁴⁹ The others said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see whether Elijah comes to his rescue.”

Narrator (Reader 3) ⁵⁰ Once again, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, then he gave up his spirit.

We will observe a moment of silence for silent prayer

Hymn *What Wondrous Love is This? (A Capella, Pastor will lead)*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that Christ should come in bliss

to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,

to bear the heavy cross, for my soul!

Narrator (Reader 1) ⁵¹Suddenly, the curtain in front of the Holy of Holies was ripped in half from top to bottom. The earth quaked, boulders were split ⁵² and tombs were opened. Many bodies of holy ones who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ After Jesus' resurrection, they came out of their tombs and entered the holy city, and appeared to many.

Narrator (Reader 2) ⁵⁴ The centurion and his cohort, who were standing guard over Jesus' body, were terror-stricken at seeing the earthquake and all that was happening, and said, "Clearly, this was God's own!"

Narrator (Reader 3) ⁵⁵A group of women were present, looking on from a distance. These were the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee as ministers to him. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary of Magdala; Mary, the mother of James and Joseph; and the mother of Zebedee's children.

Burial

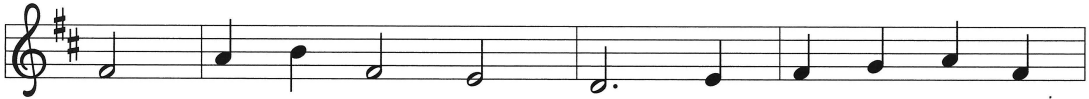
Narrator (Reader 1) ⁵⁷When evening fell, a wealthy man from Arimathea named Joseph, who had become a disciple of Jesus, ⁵⁸ came to request the body of Jesus; Pilate issued an order for its release. ⁵⁹Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in fresh linen ⁶⁰and laid it in his own tomb, which had been hewn out of rock. Then Joseph rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹But Mary of Magdala and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

We will observe another moment of silence.

***Hymn of the Day**

My Song Is Love Unknown

ELW Hymn 343



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
stow; the world that was his own would not its
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is
life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

***Apostles' Creed**

P: Together, let us profess our faith with the words of the Apostles Creed.

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

**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.**

**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.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: ... through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Music

The Palms

by J. Faure

*Offering Prayer

A: 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.

C: Amen.

* Great Thanksgiving

*Dialogue

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

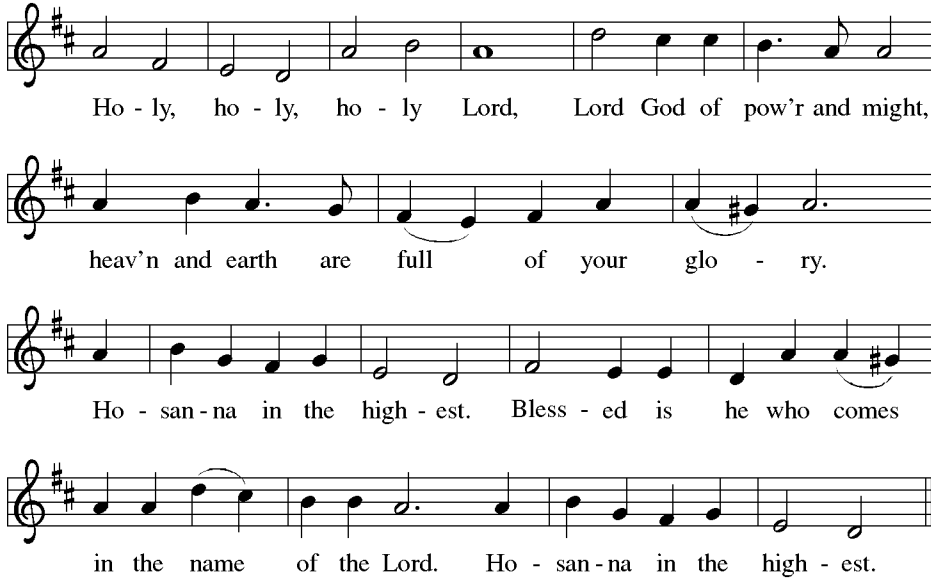
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Preface**


P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy* ELW Setting 4 pg.153



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

***Thanksgiving At The Table**

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

***Lord's Prayer**

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.**

***Invitation to Communion**

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Following usher's instructions, those sitting on the right side of the sanctuary facing the altar will go to the back of the railing on the right and fill around to the front. Those seated on the left side of the sanctuary will start at the front of the railing on the left side and fill around to the back. Your empty cups may be placed in the baskets at the end of the front pews. All who believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior, are welcome to commune. Prepackaged communion cups & gluten free wafers are available.

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, grant us peace.

Communion Music

As The Grains of Wheat

ELW Hymn 465



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



- 1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
- 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

***Post Communion Blessing**

P: ...strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer after Communion**

A: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

***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.



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

***Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Remember Fellowship after each service in the Fellowship Hall. Come and have some snacks and chat a bit.

Invitation

Please join us again in worship and fellowship! You have an open invitation to be a part of our ministries. Speak with the members and pastor to learn more about our family of Grace and visit our website at www.graceoakridge.org.

Upcoming Commemorations

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824 Sunday, March 29, 2026

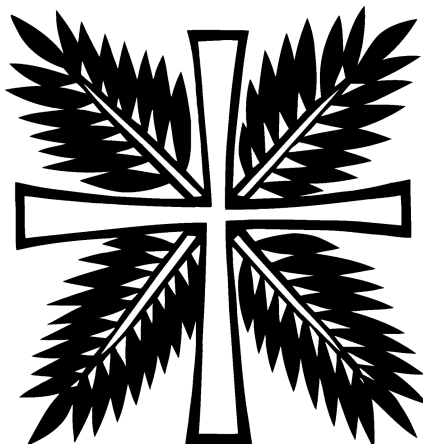
Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631 Tuesday, March 31, 2026

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589 Saturday, April 4, 2026

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.



Holy Week Schedule

Monday & Tuesday, March 30-31, 2026—

Stations of the Cross—5:00—7:00pm

Join us for a self-guided walk through the first floor of our building to remember the Stations of the Cross.

Starting in the Fellowship Hall. Each station features a modern version video depicting each station and you are invited to take your own pace to remember all that Jesus endured as he walked the road to Calvary!

Thursday, April 2, 2026—Maundy Thursday at 6:15pm

Join us for a traditional Maundy Thursday service. We will offer an opportunity to experience the washing of feet and remember the Last Supper. Holy Communion will be shared.

Friday, April 3, 2026—Good Friday at 6:15pm

6:15pm service: We will remember the somber experience of the death of Jesus through the reading of the Passion story.

Resurrection Sunday

April 5, 2025—Resurrection Sunday 7:00am, 9:00am & 11:15am

Join us to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus!

7:00am Service—will be a Sunrise service in our Memorial Garden outside.

9:00am—Contemporary Service

8:00am to 10:30am—Easter Brunch—Open to all

11:15am—Traditional Service Special music will be offered at all services.

This Week at Grace

Monday, March 30

10:00 –12:00pm	ESOL Beginners Class	Room 210
5:00-7:00pm	Stations of The Cross	Grace
7:00pm	Poetry Pie	Online
7:00pm	Boy Scouts	Pavilion

Tuesday, March 31

9:00–11:00am	ESOL Intermediate	Room 101
9:30 –11:30am	ESOL Beginners Class	Room 210
9:30-11:30am	ESOL Early Intermediate	Room 213
5:00-7:00pm	Stations of The Cross	Grace
6:00– 8:00pm	ESOL Beginners Class	Room 210

Wednesday, April 1

9:30-11:30am	ESOL Early Intermediate	Room 213
5:00pm	Ringspiration	Sanctuary
6:00-8:00pm	ESOL Intermediate Class	Room 210
7:15pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Thursday, April 2– Maundy Thursday

9:00– 11:00am	ESOL Intermediate	Room 101
9:30-11:30am	ESOL Early Intermediate	Room 213
10:00-2:00pm	Pieces of Grace	FH
6:15pm	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary

Friday, April 3– Good Friday

9:00am	Russian Class	Online
9:30-11:30am	ESOL Advanced	Room 101
10:00-12:00pm	Food Pantry	
6:15pm	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary
7:00-9:00pm	TWRA Boating Safety Class	Room 101

Saturday, April 4

10:00-12:00pm	Grace Writers Room	Room 101
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Sunday, April 5 Resurrection/ Easter Sunday

7:00am	Sunrise Easter Service	Memorial Garden
8:00-10:30am	Brunch	FH
9:00am	Contemporary Worship	Sanctuary
11:15am	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary

Remember in Your Prayers and Visits

Viva Senior Care: June Peishel

The Groves: Evelyn Lorenz

Homebound: Julia Stockstill, Sy Moua, Kris Brenner, Pam Williams, Caryl Thompson, Penny Frew, Annie Long, Lois Szluha, Dawn Pennington.

If you have a minute — Please send a card to one of our members who is homebound or in assisted living.

Members: Brian Joesten, Terry Domm, Vickie Kitts, Stan & Annie Long, James Bauman, Julia and Scott Stockstill, Evelyn Lorenz, Lois Szluha, June Peishel, Valerie Hansen, Pam Williams, Caryl Thompson, Dawn Pennington, Sy Moua, Brittany Moua, Anne Douglas, Penny Frew, Kris Brenner.

Friends and Family: Mildred Bartlett, Mary Stager, Teresa Mustaffa, Saylor Lopez, Bernice Moore, Jim Crumley III, Betty Dreyer, Zoe Moore, Pat Ryan, Rafael & Jennifer Rivera, Elizabeth Stone.

Missionaries: David and Alicia Brondos, and all members of Grace Church.

Our Guatemalan Companion Synod Partners: Pastor Karen Castillo, her sister Ms. Beatriz Castillo and son Diego.

God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Grace's Mission Statement

Led by the Holy Spirit, we are called to worship God,
Love our neighbors as ourselves, and
Inspire others to seek Jesus and
Experience God's grace in their lives.

Serving Today

Preaching and Presiding Pastor: Rev. Rosalina Rivera

Readers: Judy Joy, Heidi Joesten, Ron Goans

Liturgist: Heidi Joesten

Young Person's Message: Lisa Sipes

Offering Stewards: Lorraine Huynh, April Fritts

Altar Guild: Nahida Jallouk, Barbara Sparks

Flower Guild: Palms

Ushers: Donna Hoglund, Kathy Olsen

Invitation

Please join us again in worship and fellowship! You have an open invitation to be a part of our ministries. Speak with the members and pastor to learn more about our family of Grace and visit our website at www.graceoakridge.org.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Rosalina Rivera, Pastor

Slade Trammell, Director of Music

David Ensley, Organist

Pam Woodard, Secretary

Ingrid Busch, Sound Technician

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