

# *Palm Sunday*

March 29, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



**Como Park Lutheran Church, ELCA, RIC**

*Reaching out in Christ to a changing world.*

1376 Hoyt Ave W | Saint Paul, MN 55108

(651) 646-7127

[www.ComoParkLutheran.org](http://www.ComoParkLutheran.org)



COMO PARK  
LUTHERAN

*We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship, community, and faith.*

*We acknowledge and celebrate the rich diversity within and around us. As a community rooted in the body of Christ, we commit ourselves to creating a space where people of all races, ages, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are not only included but deeply valued and seen as essential to our shared journey.*

*Together, we value human diversity as a divine gift and blessing—a reflection of God’s boundless creativity and love. Because of this, we commit ourselves in ministry to fully embracing all people and advancing racial equity in our ministry.*

*We recognize that we hold a variety of beliefs, perspectives, and lived experiences; and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together. If you have questions, feedback, or needs for assistance, please ask. We seek to grow together in ministry, community and faith, and we are glad that you are here with us today.*

*~ The People of Como Park Lutheran Church*

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR**  
**will immediately follow the service.**

Please join us in the Narthex  
for some coffee and light snacks.

This service will be broadcasted live on YouTube  
and recorded for later viewing.

[www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch)



**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP**

**Maundy Thursday  
With Holy Communion**

April 2, 2026 at 6:30 pm

**Good Friday**

April 3, 2026 at 6:30 pm

**EASTER WORSHIP**

April 5, 2026  
9:30 am Worship



## ***Music and Worship Notes***

We gather together in the narthex remembering the first Palm Sunday: Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the day the crowds cheered him.

It is also the Sunday of the Passion, a day we focus on Jesus' crucifixion with the crowds call for his death.

We end remembering Christ's crucifixion.



Regular - Liturgist  
**Bold - Congregation**  
✠ - Stand as able



## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **THE PROCESSIONAL GATHERING (in Narthex)**

#### **WELCOME**

#### **INVOCATION AND PRAYER**

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

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

(Luke 19:28-40)

After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup>When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup>saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup>So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup>As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup>They said, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup>Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup>As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup>saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

<sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." <sup>40</sup>He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

## ✠BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

# ✠OPENING 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.

### ✠PROCESSIONAL RESPONSE

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

### ✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The 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.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I 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.

<sup>7</sup>The 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;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



And being found in human form,  
    <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
    and became obedient to the point of death—  
    even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
    and gave him the name  
    that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
    every knee should bend,  
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
    that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
    to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **ANTHEM**

Ride on, King Jesus!

arr. Aspaas

CPLC Tenors and Basses

**GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-54**    *(Please remain seated for the Gospel.)*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the Twenty-Seventh Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> 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?” <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> 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.” <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup> 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.” <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> 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!” <sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink,



mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

<sup>38</sup> Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> 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.” <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> “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. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” <sup>44</sup> The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> 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?” <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” <sup>48</sup> 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. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> 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!”

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

David Person

**(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)**

## SERMON

Pastor Martin Ericson

### ✠SERMON HYMN

My Song is Love Unknown (*vs. 1-5*)

ELW 343

### ✠APOSTLES' CREED

Standing together, let us confess our faith...

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

... Lord, in your mercy,  
... hear our prayer.

## ✠THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

(In sharing God's Peace we share with each other our hope for God's blessing by shaking hands, or turning to one another and nodding, or bumping fists and saying "God's peace be with you.")

## THE MEAL

### OFFERING

Via Dolorosa

arr. Fettke

CPLChoir

*Electronic offerings can be made using smart phones and tablet devices by going to [www.ComoParkLutheran.org](http://www.ComoParkLutheran.org) and clicking on the "donate" button. You may also use the giving kiosk in the narthex located by the staircase.*



## ✠OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## ✠THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

This musical score is written on four staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The first staff contains two measures of music. The second staff also contains two measures. The third and fourth staves each contain a single measure of music.

It is indeed... 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. 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 in the high - est.

This musical score is written on four staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The first staff contains two measures of music. The second staff contains two measures. The third staff contains two measures. The fourth staff contains two measures.

**✠WORDS OF INSTITUTION** (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

In the night in which he was betrayed...  
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

**✠THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 11:15)

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION**

All who believe Christ is truly present in the sacrament are invited to receive communion. At the server, hold out the flat of your palm to receive the wafer. If you desire gluten-free wafers, simply say to the first server "gluten-free." Then, step to the second server and take the wine in the small cup. The cups hold red wine and grape juice. If you are allergic to grapes, you are free to receive only the bread, knowing that Christ is fully present within each element. Children who do not yet commune will receive a blessing from pastor or first server.

**LAMB OF GOD** (John 1:29)

*ELW pg. 146*

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.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

Ah, Holy Jesus

**ELW 349**

**✠POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### ✠BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### ✠CLOSING HYMN

**Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed**

**ELW 337**

### ✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

Toccata

Boellmann

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*Please pray for...*

Pam B.	Tyler F. (brother-in-law of Ginger F.)
Dorothy E.	J.J. K. (great grandson of Bill H.)
Kathy H.	Joe (friend of Sandra H.)
Ann L.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Heather Q.	Nichole (friend of Como Connects)
Ruth R.	Mary C
	Gina Koltes

... and all in need of prayers

*We welcome names of members, family, and friends on our prayer list.*

✘   ✘   ✘

### **Serving in the Military**

Dane Beecham, Jonathan Lund, Kristian Nelson  
... and all others who serve

✘   ✘   ✘

**We pray regularly for all members and friends of our congregation.**

**This week in worship, we pray for:**

Zach & Kristina Klemp, Madeline  
Stu & Mitch Klitza  
Jeffrey & Janice Kragness  
Sue & Brian Kretsch, Michael, Carolyn  
David Laden  
Jerry Laden  
Tom Lageson & Ann Lundberg

## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

**Pastor:** Martin Ericson

**Director of Music Ministries:** Tom Ferry

## THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

<b>Date</b>	<b>March 29, 2026</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kyle Bergstrom
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Rosemary Johnson & Zarida Young
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Janice Kragness
<b>Communion Asst 1</b>	Darrell Anderson
<b>Communion Asst 2</b>	Tom Spivey
<b>Greeter</b>	Janice Kragness
<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Fred & Lois Halberg
<b>Children's Message</b>	David Person
<b>Reader</b>	David Person
<b>Liturgist</b>	Alex Leone
<b>Ushers</b>	Team 2
<b>Welcome Desk</b>	Fay Cushman
<b>Bus Helper</b>	Shirley Dingman
<b>Bus Driver</b>	Lowell Lundy
<b>Video Tech</b>	Craig Canada

## USHER TEAM

Team 2: Sandra Hirsch, Kevin Johnson, Mark Bly



# Announcements

**CHELSEA HEIGHTS FOOD DRIVE** — The food pantry we launched with Chelsea Heights School and the PTO at the end of January came to a close on Wednesday, March 25. This has been a wonderful collaboration with the school and community and we've formed new relationships that will continue beyond this effort. Over the past nine weeks, this pantry has supported Chelsea Heights families, neighboring families, a partner school (Frost Lake Elementary), Murray Middle School, and Esther Homes (<https://Estherhomesmn.org>).

As of March 25, any remaining food and hygiene supplies will be donated to the Murray Middle School Pantry. If you would like to donate directly to Murray Middle School, please contact: [mandi.rupp@gmail.com](mailto:mandi.rupp@gmail.com)

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — JULY 6–9** We're partnering again with Camp Onomia for VBS. Kids PreK–5th grade are invited to attend; teens and adults are welcome to help.

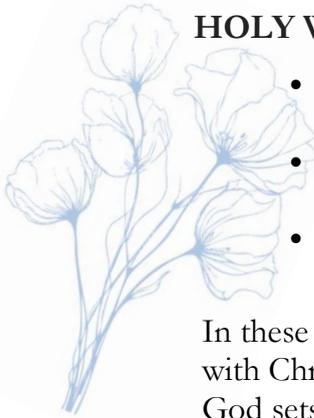
**YOUTH CAMPING TRIP — JULY 16–18** Save the date for our youth camping trip for grades 7–12. More details to come.

**FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY NIGHT — APRIL 3, 5–8 PM**

Families with children newborn through 6th grade (older siblings welcome) are invited for pizza, activities, and time together. A free-will donation helps cover pizza. Parents may bring beer, wine, or specialty non-alcoholic beverages.

**Where:** CPLC Fellowship Hall

**RSVP:** Text 651-353-5623 so we can plan for pizza.



**HOLY WEEK**—All services below will be livestreamed on our YouTube.

- **April 2 – 6:30 PM**  
Maundy Thursday: First Communion & Holy Communion
- **April 3 – 6:30 PM**  
Good Friday: Passion Gospel (No Holy Communion)
- **April 5 – 9:30 AM**  
Easter Sunday: Holy Communion

In these sacred days, we gather around Word and Sacrament, walking with Christ through the upper room and the cross, and into the promise God sets before us.



**100 YEARS**  
Reaching Out to Christ in a Changing World

*Como Park Lutheran Church*  
**CENTENNIAL BANQUET**

5:30 PM. Saturday, April 25, 2026.  
Roseville Oval Skating Complex, Rose Room.  
\$25 Per Ticket. Ticket Deadline: April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Banquet Menu**

**CARVED ENTRÉES**

Baked Ham (GF)  
Roasted Turkey  
(GF)

**ACCOMPANIMENTS**

Traditional Stuffing  
Rosemary Red Potatoes  
(GF)  
Green Beans (GF)  
House Salad (GF)  
Dinner Rolls

**DESSERT**

Freshly  
Baked Cake

**MARCH 29, 2026  
PALM/PASSION  
SUNDAY**



*Jesus' death shows the depth of God's love.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 21:1-11</b>	<b>Jesus enters Jerusalem</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Matthew 26:14–27:66</b>	<b>Jesus' trial and crucifixion</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Isaiah 50:4-9a</b>	<b>The servant's humiliation</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Philippians 2:5-11</b>	<b>Christ shows us true humility</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>John 13:1-35</b>	<b>Jesus washes disciples' feet</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>John 18:1–19:42</b>	<b>Jesus suffers and dies</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 31:9-16</b>	<b>Prayer for protection</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 28:1-10</b>	<b>Christ's resurrection</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*[B]ut [Jesus Christ] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. **Philippians 2:7-8 (NRSV)***

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Merciful God, free us to trust that the humiliation Jesus experienced from the cross is the path to hope for the world and the source of real power, faith, and love. Amen.

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of each day and for this food. May we enjoy the day with courage, faith, and love. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the face of God shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)



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**MARCH 29, 2026**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Ride On, Ride On in  
Majesty!*



taking **+**  
faith  
home

**WEEKLY MILESTONES**

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What do you do to show someone that you care for them?
- How is Jesus' death on a cross a sign of God's love for you?

**DEVOTIONS**



*Read:* Matthew 26:14–27:66.

Many theories have been put forward in the history of the church to state why Jesus had to die to be our Savior. However, one point is clear in the Bible: Jesus' death shows the depth of God's love, a love that is willing to experience a form of slavery, humiliation, and excruciating death, "even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8). Crosses have become forms of jewelry and part of other art forms that point to Jesus' death. However, neither jewelry nor other art forms fully express the pain and humiliation that God in Christ endured to indicate the character of who God is for us. Jesus joins our human existence by making our deepest prayer his prayer: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). God in Christ Jesus joins our life experience and from the cross stretches out his arms to say, "I love you this much."

*Discuss:* When you see someone wearing a cross, what does it mean to you?

*Pray:* **Loving God, you stop at nothing to show us your divine character and the depth of your love. Help us to know and to trust the power of your love for us through Christ. Amen.**

**SERVICE**



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you care for someone who has been unfairly treated?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



If you received palms during worship, take them home. As we begin Holy Week, say the **ACTS** prayer of giving praise to God (Adoration), asking God's forgiveness (Confession), giving thanks to God (Thanksgiving), and asking God's help for those in need (Supplication) as you light all six purple candles on the Lenten Candle Cross. After lighting the candles, hold a palm and wave it in your hand as you say, "**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**" (Matthew 21:9b)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

**Please visit the Welcome Desk in the narthex  
if you have any questions about our facility or upcoming events.**

**Adult Forums, Membership Classes,  
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