

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
April 2nd, 2023

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday



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.

- PRELUDE
- WELCOME
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PRAYER REQUESTS

For sections with a *, please stand as you are able.

*GATHERING

The assembly gathers in the narthex with their palms

*ACCLAMATION

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

ALL: Hosanna in the highest.

*PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

L: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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.”

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

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

L: The gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

*BLESSING OF PALMS

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: 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.

ALL: Amen.

*PROCESSION

L: Let us go forth in peace,

ALL: in the name of Christ. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN:

All Glory, Laud, and Honor



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,



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.

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

ALL: Hosanna in the highest.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: 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.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

L: 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?

L: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 31:9-16

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

L: ⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

**ALL: ¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

L: 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.

**ALL: ¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

L: 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.

**ALL: ¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**

L: ¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

**ALL: ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

L: 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Ride On, King Jesus!

With guest musician: Julie Conschafter

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Words & music by Jean Anne Shafferman
Arranged by Patti Drennan*

CHILDREN'S TIME

A DRAMATIC READING OF THE GOSPEL: Matthew 26:14--27:66

In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

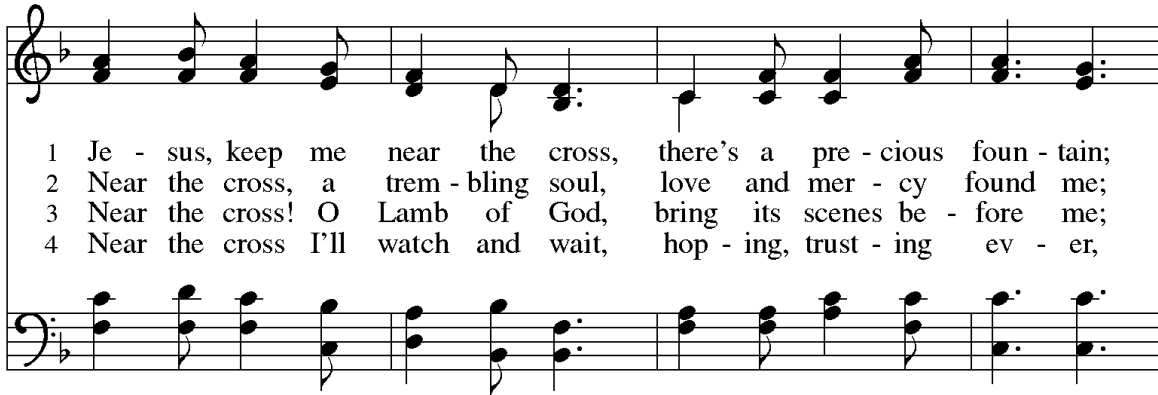
ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

***HYMN OF THE DAY:**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

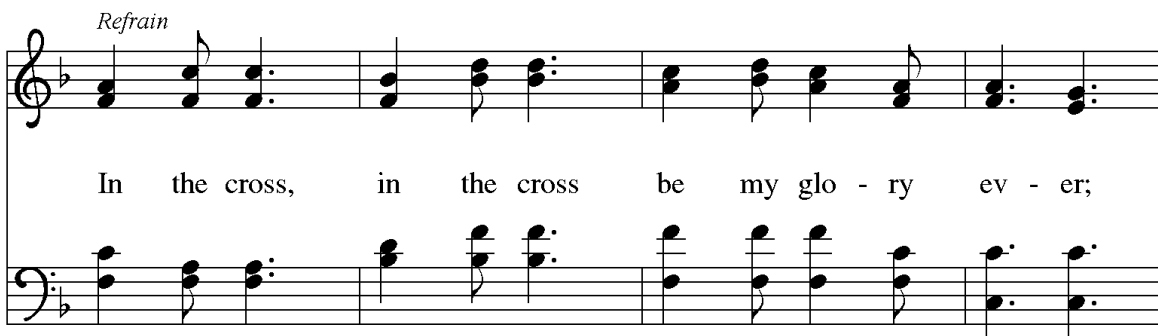


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each prayer ends with these words:

L: Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

L: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

**Please greet one another creatively – being mindful of physical distancing, with a sign of Christ's peace from where you are seated.*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Any financial gifts you wish to give towards the ministry of Trinity may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the worship space. We give thanks for your sharing of your offerings this and every day.

L: God of good gifts,

ALL: receive these and all our offerings

as we present them in faithful service

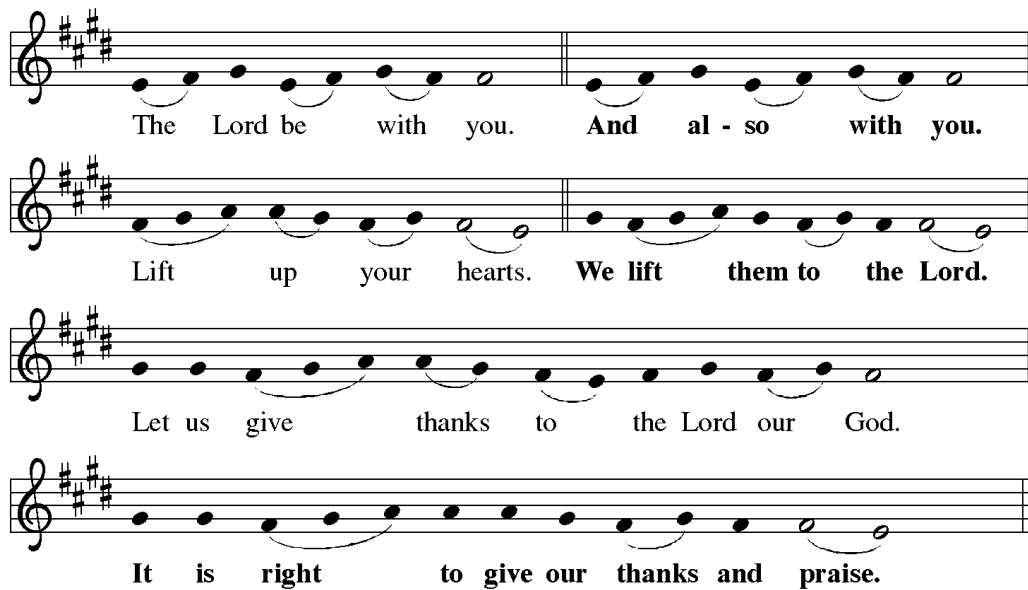
for the sake of your gospel.

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal

as you pour out your very presence

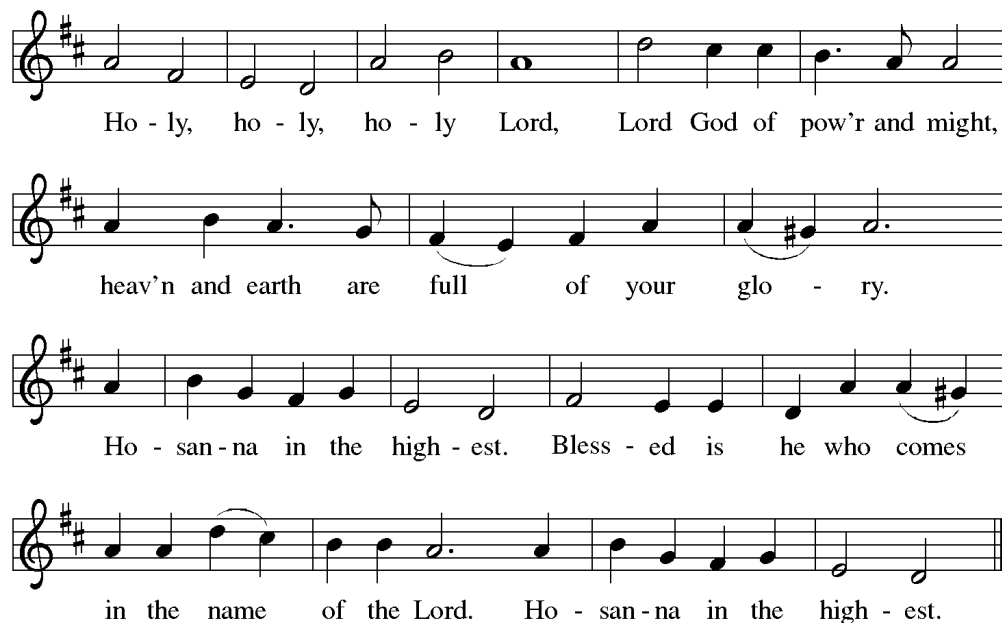
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

***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.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

L: In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
ALL: 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**

L: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The minister will give instruction on the distribution of communion.

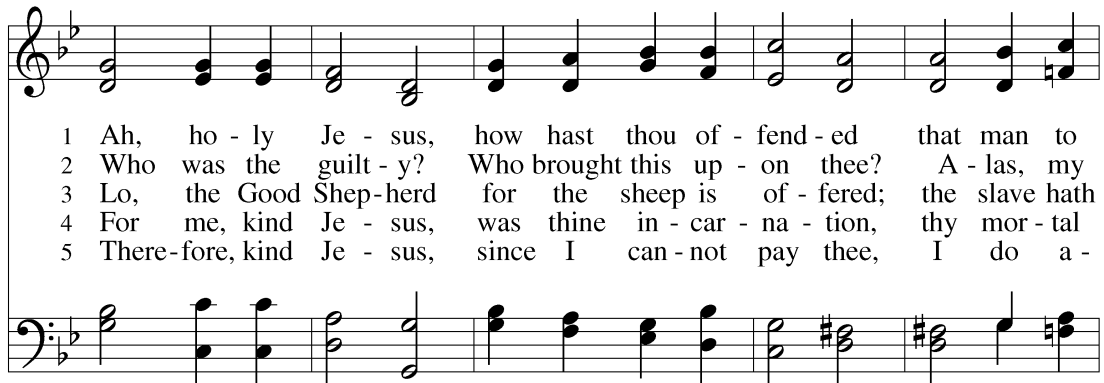
COMMUNION HYMN: Lamb of God

To be sung during the distribution of communion

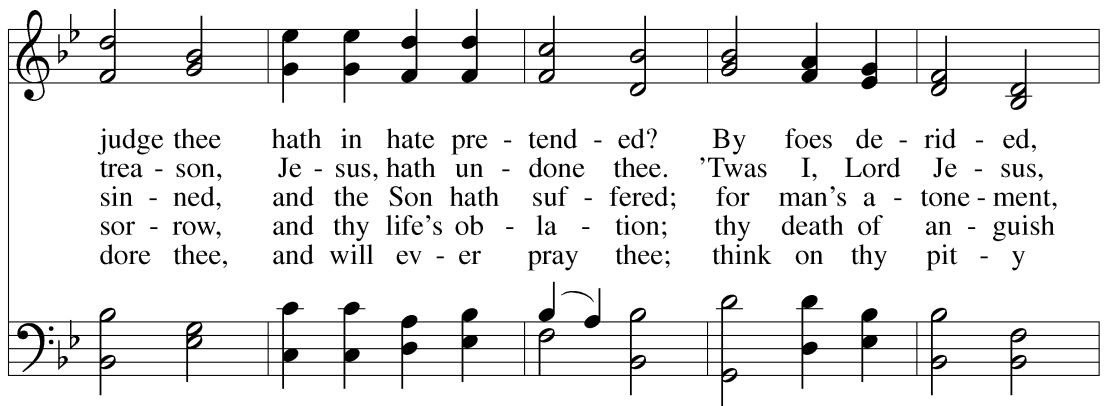
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: Ah, Holy Jesus
Green book #123

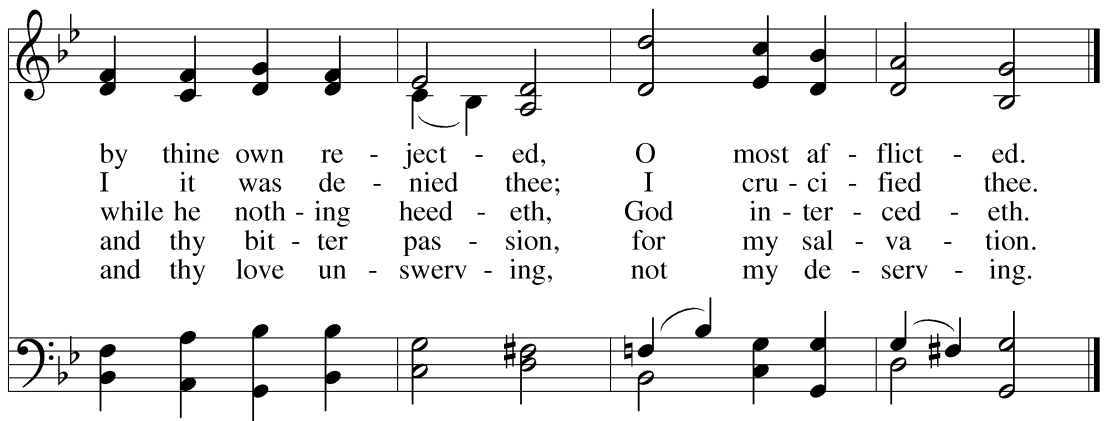
Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that man to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for man's a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while he noth - ing heed - eth, God in - ter - ced - eth.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
 Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in God's grace, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

***PRAYER**

L: Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

All: Amen.

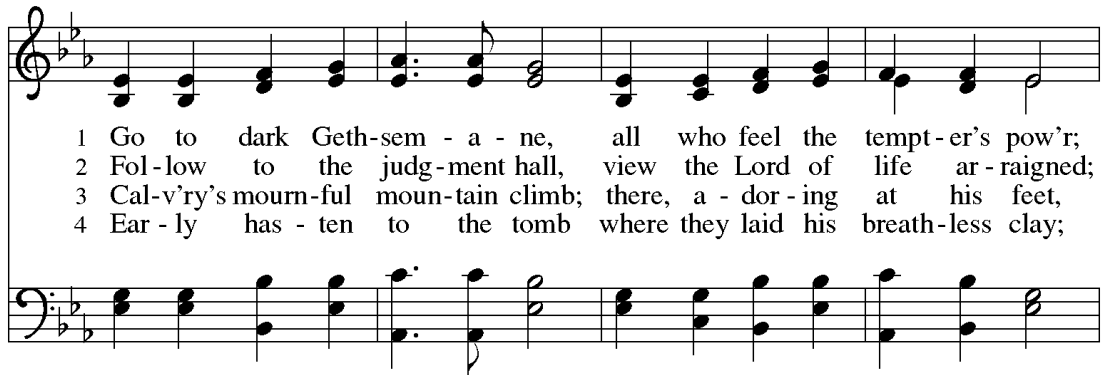
***BLESSING**

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

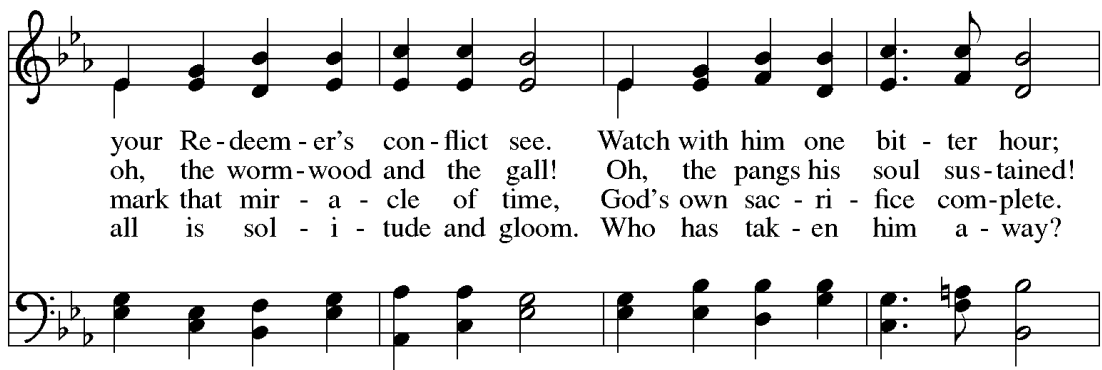
ALL: Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: Go to Dark Gethsemane**
Green Book: #109

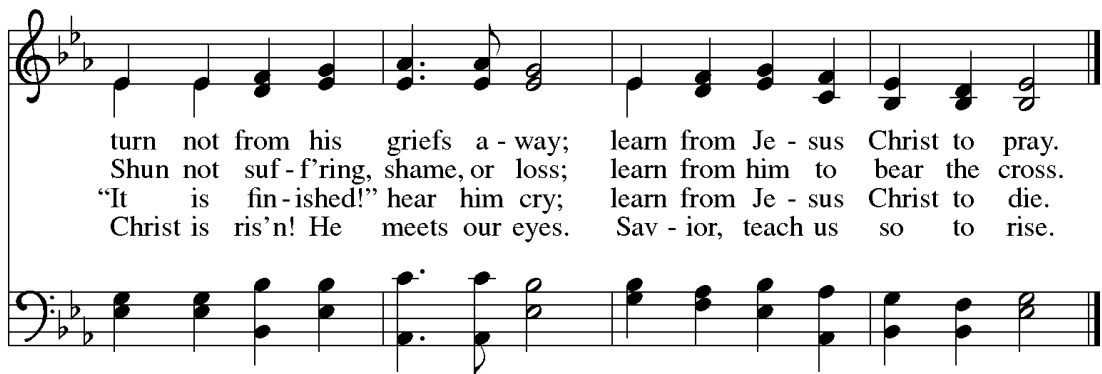
Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854
 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.
All: Thanks be to God.

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*God's love is powerful...powerful enough to wade through our doubts, fears, and challenges.
And, God's love is for YOU and ALL*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Pray For:

Strength & Healing for:

Roger Hofmeier - healing from a fall
Sharon Dixon – healing from broken leg
Jake Smith – prayers for healing
Terry Smitch
Jim Blake
Sarah Popalardaro
Dale Kruschke – continued healing
Leah Kissel - waiting for a liver transplant
Michele Sion - strength to face the days ahead
Flo Goeseke – continued healing
Anne Golpl – healing from cracked ribs
Jeff Saylor – comfort for him & his family
Kathryn Johannes – pneumonia
Bob Whiting – cancer
Betty Rehwaldt - comfort

Patience & understanding for:

Eileen Kittel – chemo
Al Buza - testing
Scot Baron
Joanne Goeske Taylor – radiation treatments

The family & friends of:

Ron Dorr
Carl Patterson, Sr.
Ken Kasparek
Randy Noody
Burt Lyon

Prayers are a powerful way to lift up people who are sick, injured or suffering for God's healing, and also to give thanks for good news. Trinity sees prayer as an essential ministry, and has several ways we pray for those in need, and for you to take part in those prayers:

- 1. Trinity has a vibrant Prayer Chain ministry. Please contact Sue Kidder, our Prayer Chain coordinator, at 716-542-2095 anytime if you would like your prayer request(s) to be shared with our Prayer Chain group. Sue uses our OneCall phone system to share prayer requests with our group ASAP. Also, let us know if you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain.*
- 2. Trinity maintains a prayer list in both the Sunday bulletin and the Beacon newsletter. Let us know about names you would like listed in the church office, or via the signup sheet at worship. Names remain listed for about a month unless you let us know otherwise.*
- 3. If you wish for names to remain anonymous, you can let us know privately. We also have a moment of silent prayer during worship to lift up any one person or situation too sensitive to share otherwise.*

Counters: April: MaryLou, May: Jennifer

Holy Week Services

Join us as we complete the walk towards the cross on Holy Week. Our services are:

-Maundy Thursday: April 6th at 7 pm

-Good Friday tenebrae (a service of light to darkness): April 7th at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday at Trinity

We celebrate Easter at Trinity on Sunday, April 9th:

-Pot-Luck breakfast at 8 am

-Easter worship is at 9:30 am

-Following worship will be the Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

Spaghetti Supper

Thank you to all those who volunteered their time, talents, ingredients and baskets for the Basket Raffle to make the Spaghetti Supper a success! We brought in \$1549.00! And the basket raffle brought in \$915.00!!

Bible Study

Bible study is on break through April 12th. Join us as we resume on April 19th!

Choir

Choir is meeting Wednesdays at 7:30 all are welcome. Please see David for additional Sunday rehearsal dates.

Little Food Pantry

The Little food Pantry is in constant need of restocking. Dry, non-perishable items like peanut butter and mac 'n cheese will help keep the pantry afloat to help those in need. Please spread the word so we can get the community involved as well. There is a collection box in the narthex, or you can place your items in the Pantry itself.

Sunday School

Kids – bring your banks back on Easter Sunday!

And don't forget, we'll be having an Easter Egg hunt following worship on Easter Sunday!

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School: Sunday July 16-Thursday July 20th. It will run from 5:30-8pm each night, at Town Line Lutheran Church in Alden.

Lenten Collection Challenge: R.I.P. Medical Debt

We wrap up our collection challenge TODAY! Our Synod's goal is to raise \$10,000, which translates into eliminating \$1 million of medical debt! Even Sunday School is collecting donations in piggy banks! If you haven't already...any and all donations (paper and coin cash, checks, etc.) are welcome!

**Pastor Rick will match the first \$200 that is donated, and he challenges Trinity to raise at least \$1,500! That would eliminate \$150,000 of medical debt! We can do it!*

Adult Forum

Adult Forum Book Study: Tattoos on the Heart

We'll continue in our book at these upcoming Adult Forum times following Sunday worship:

10:45 am on April 16th

10:45 am on April 30th

Options to get your copy of Tattoos on the Heart:

-The Erie County Public Library has copies available for loan.

-You can also purchase your own copy elsewhere.

Hope Haven

Hope Haven is a non-profit inpatient chemical dependency rehabilitation program that provides an opportunity for WNY adults to overcome alcohol and substance abuse. They are in need of donations of the following items:

Magazines

Journals or composition notebooks

playing cards

yarn

crochet needles

puzzle books

adult coloring books

colored pencils

exercise equipment

To donate any of the following items, please contact Shannon Kern at 716-462-1212.

3rd Grade Bible

One of the promises we make for children at baptism is to "place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer."

To fulfill this promise, Trinity is starting a 3rd grade Bible program where we will provide an age-appropriate study Bible for children currently in their third grade year. (We'll also include older children in this first year of the program up to 6th grade.) And we'll hold a workshop for parents on ways you can use this Bible with your family.

3rd grade Bible Sunday will be Sunday, May 18th, with the workshop during Sunday School on May 7th. There is no cost to 3rd grade Bible families. For everyone else, if you would like to

sponsor a Bible for a child, the cost is \$30 for each Bible. Please contact Pastor Rick by Easter Sunday if you are interested in this new program for your family or are interested in sponsorships.

Summer Worship and Picnic: Mark your Calendars

Trinity is going back to Akron Falls Park for worship and fun and food! We'll have our Summer Worship and Picnic at the Brooklyn St. shelter in Akron Falls Park at 10:30 am on Sunday, July 16th!

Council & Committee Retreat

Council members and anyone who is associated with a committee is invited to attend the Council & Committee retreat **from 8:30am – noon on May 20th**. We will start with a pot-luck breakfast before getting down to business.