

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK April 2, 2023–April 9, 2023

PALM SUNDAY 4/2/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Worship with Children's
Sunday School
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 4/3/23

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 4/4/23

5:00PM Dream Team
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 4/5/23

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

MAUNDY THURSDAY 4/6/23

12:00 PM Worship
6:00 Soup Supper
6:30PM Worship
7:00PM Al-Anon

GOOD FRIDAY 4/7/23

10:30AM Grace Stickers
12:00PM Worship
**7:00PM Worship Concert with
Grace Consort Choir**
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 4/8/23

No events

EASTER SUNDAY 4/9/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
10:15AM Traditional Worship
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

Happy Easter!
Blessings to all!


Present this bulletin on a Sunday and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace Lutheran Church. Present this on any other day, and we will donate 10%.
Shore Diner 6710 Tilton Road Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234 609-641-3669

Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244
Church Office: 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982
Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org
E-mail: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor ☩ Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

We welcome you to worship here at Grace!
*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.
Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

Thank you for joining with us as we worship our Lord together!

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.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Fantasy on "St. Theodulph"

by Russell Green

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We follow Jesus into Jerusalem and enter this Holy Week. This is the day that the Lord has made; **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna to the humble King! This is the day that the Lord has made; **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

With the Palm branches and shouts of Hosanna, we worship You, O God of Grace. This is the day that the Lord has made; **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven! This is the day that the Lord has made; **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! **Hosanna in the Highest!!**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21: 1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

Members of Grace: Debbie K., Renee P., Carol F., & Carole T.

Our family and friends: Donna, Freddy, Family and friends of Kurt (Pastor), Eileen (Ruth T.), Stephanie B. (Roberta B.), Marilyn (Ruth B.), Max S., Donald (Clare B.), Bob & Kim (Jim F.), Annmarie (June J.), Shirley & Carl (Debbie K.), Bob & Lou (Dale K.), Lindsey, Jim, Vicki (Meg L.), Janice & Keyara (Diana M.), Bernadette, Lou, Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, Donny, Carol (Renee P.), Catherine, Sal & Ana, Mark (Corinne R.), Karen (Sue R.), Bob & Donna (Brenda T.), Bill, Sally, & Harry (Jill W.), Eleanor (Roberta B.)

Those serving our country: Mike Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner, 3rd USN

Our members at home: Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Lois Reardon

Villa Raffaella: Barbara Johnson **Woodview Estates:** Lorraine Moore

The Shores at Wesley Manor: Eleanore Guire

Please notify Pastor Althea or the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list, so we can keep it as updated as possible for you.

April Worship Assistants:

4/9 June Jordan

4/16 Meg Markkanen

4/23 Shirley Blankenship

4/30 Stephen Gring

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM

FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-2:00PM

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

We are thankful and excited that we have had several new individuals and families worshiping with us this fall and winter. Pastor Althea is offering two spring dates for orientation to our church.

Dates for new member orientation are:

Monday, April 17th at 2:00 PM OR

Thursday, April 20th at 7:00 PM



You are invited to pick one of the two sessions to attend. We will go over the same information at both meetings.

We are hoping to install and bless those wishing to be part our family of faith here at Grace on **Sunday, April 30, 2023.**

WE'RE GOING TO BAYFEST!

We hope you will sign up to join Pastor Althea in being part of a church advertising table this year at Bayfest in Somers Point on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

We have divided up the day into time slots. Sign up by yourself or with a friend, family member, or spouse.

Time slots are: 7:45am-10am, 10am-12pm, 12pm-2pm, 2pm-4pm, 4pm-5:30pm. Pastor would like 2-3 people to join her in each time slot as we represent our church. Please call the church office or look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex (lobby in the rear of the sanctuary).

Matthew 21: 1-11

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." This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered into the Holy city in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and King by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless the 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.**

OPENING HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW #344

VERSES 1,3,5 ALL; VERSE 2 MEN; VERSE 4 WOMEN

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.**

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the LORD submits to suffering

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.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

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.

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; he who vindicates me is near.

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

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

PSALM: 31:9-16



Have 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.**

SAVE THE DATES



Sunday, April 23, 2023

Earth Day Celebration

and Worship with Special

Music at 10:15am

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Pentecost Party & Worship

*with Special Prayers and Music from around the world
at 10:15am*

Join us as we celebrate the Holy Spirit

coming to the disciples and beginning the church and the Holy Spirit who guides us into the future.

WEAR RED, ORANGE,

or YELLOW



BABY SHOWER

for Shore Memorial NICU

will be at Grace Lutheran Church

Friday, May 19 at 12:00 PM

Lunch will be served for Shore

Medical nurses and guests.

Donations needed: New clothing (preemie-2T),
diapers, knitted and crocheted clothing and blankets

Deadline for donations: Friday, May 12



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 up- | on your servant; save me in your | stead- fast 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 with Christ’s death.

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.

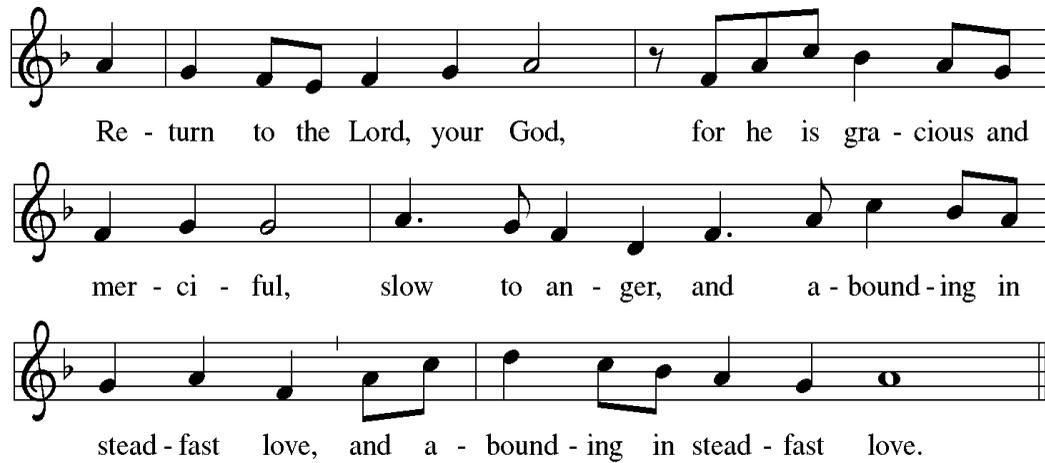
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Sunday School

The children are dismissed for Sunday School and they will return for communion.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Return to the Lord, your God* **ELW #335**



Please be seated.

THE PASSION NARRATIVE ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 21:1-11

Through the teachings and events of the passion story we see and hear the great contradictions that are all part of the coming of God's Kingdom. The leader serves, the disciples are able to fill others, Peter is troubled, and Jesus is arrested, beaten, crucified, and buried.

Narrator: One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

Judas: What will you give me if I betray him to you?

Narrator: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

Disciples: Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

Narrator: Jesus said,



Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

12:00PM (noon) Worship with Holy Communion

6:00PM Bread and Broth Supper

6:30PM Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 7, 2023

12:00PM (noon) Worship Service

7:00PM *No Stone Could Hold Him!* by Lloyd Larson

Choral Cantata Concert and Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

8:00AM and 10:15AM Celebration Worship Service with Holy Communion

(No Adult Forum Sunday School this day at 8:45AM.)

The Church Office will be CLOSED on April 7, 2023
in observance of Good Friday.

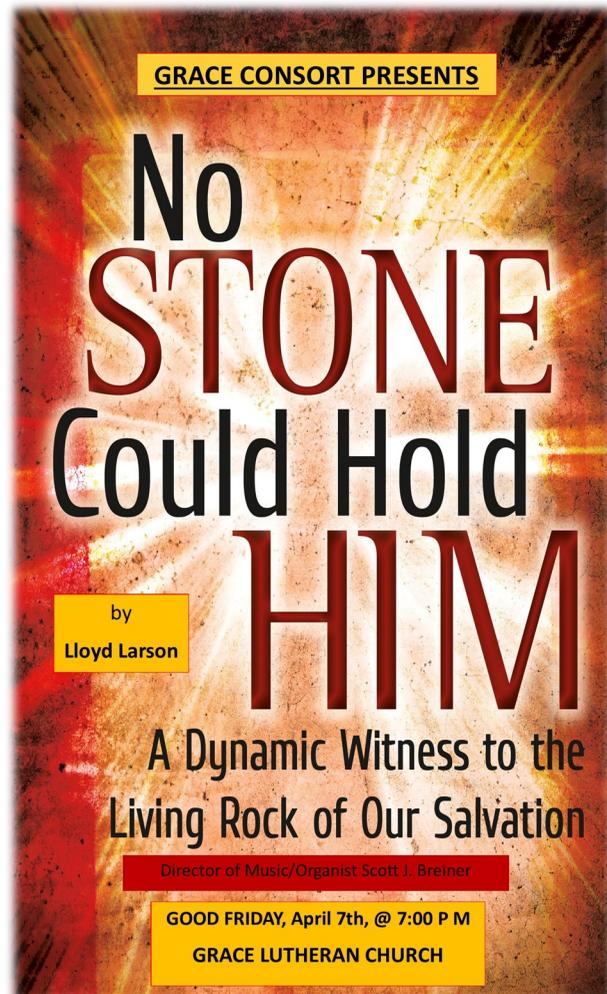
Pastor Althea will be on Easter vacation April 10-11, 2023.

Please call her cell phone directly with any
pastoral emergencies or hospitalizations.

Welcome

WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are a visitor please fill out a VISITOR CARD in the pews if you are new to our church. Pastor Althea would love to meet you and get in touch with you.



Jesus: Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'

Narrator: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

Narrator: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

Disciples: Surely not I, Lord?

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 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.

Narrator: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas: Surely not I, Rabbi?

Narrator: Jesus replied,

Jesus: You have said so.

Narrator: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus: Take, eat; this is my body.

Narrator: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Narrator: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Narrator: Peter said to him,

Peter: Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Narrator: Peter said to him,

Peter: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Narrator: And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

Jesus: Sit here while I go over there and pray.

Narrator: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

Jesus: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

Christ knows our pain. **Christ suffered as we suffer.**

Christ knows our grief. **His family and friends lose him on the cross.**

Christ knows our need for redemption. **He forgives us all as he dies and rises for our salvation.**

As we enter into the Holy Week of the Passion of our Lord, let us remember the sacrifice and suffering of Jesus on the cross.

May God fill you with all joy and peace in believing in the power of the cross, so that you may find hope and forgiveness in God's great love. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Ride On, Ride On In Majesty!* ELW #346

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God!**

May the peace of the Lord be with you always! We are glad for your presence today. We hope you come again soon!

We thank all those serving in worship today:

Reader: Corinne Rhodes

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

On 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.

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

Celebration Hymnal p.631

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

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW page 14

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. Pastor and worship assistants will distribute elements as everyone comes forward. Children are invited to come forward for a blessing from the pastor.

Narrator: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

Narrator: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Narrator: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

Jesus: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

Narrator: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Narrator: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas: The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

Narrator: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Judas: Greetings, Rabbi!

Narrator: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Friend, do what you are here to do.

Narrator: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?

Narrator: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.

Narrator: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

Witnesses: This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'

Narrator: The high priest stood up and said,

High Priest: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Narrator: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

High Priest: I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn 'CHILDREN PRAYING'. Each system consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;' and 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.'

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943
Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema
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MEDITATION

Please meditate or pray quietly at your seat while others receive prayers in the front of the church. When all who wish to have prayer and anointing have come forward and then are seated again the service will continue below.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW hymnal page 144

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:

fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs and bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful and with those who are experiencing illness of mind, body, or spirit especially all those we name aloud and in our hearts... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: 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. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

TIME FOR HEALING AND ANOINTING

During this time for healing and anointing, you are all invited to come forward as you are able for brief prayer with Pastor Althea and anointing with oil. Masks may be worn as you feel comfortable. Pastor will be using disposable cotton Q-tips for anointing. Do not feel rushed.

HYMN

Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

WOV #775

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Narrator: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest: He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

Narrator: They answered,

Priests: He deserves death.

Narrator: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

Priests: Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

Narrator: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

Servant Girl 1 You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

Narrator: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

Peter: I do not know what you are talking about.

Narrator: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

Servant Girl 2: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

Narrator: Again he denied it with an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man.

Narrator: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

Crowd: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

Narrator: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter: I do not know the man!

Narrator: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

Judas: I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

Narrator: But they said,

Priests: What is that to us? See to it yourself.

Narrator: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

Priests: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.

Narrator: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord com-

Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, And his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Agnus Dei

by Mark Sullivan

OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts, 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. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A: Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the

Narrator: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

Priests: Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first.

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

Narrator: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone. This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Song Is Love Unknown* ELW #343
VERSES 1-4

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus

manded me.'

Narrator: Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Narrator: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Narrator: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

Pilate's wife: Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

Narrator: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Pilate: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Narrator: And they said,

Crowd: Barabbas.

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Narrator: All of them said,

Crowd: Let him be crucified!

Narrator: Then he asked,
Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,
Crowd: Let him be crucified!

Narrator: 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,
Pilate: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

Narrator: Then the people as a whole answered,
Crowd: His blood be on us and on our children!

Narrator: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 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,

Soldiers: Hail, King of the Jews!

Narrator: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those

who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,
Crowd: 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.

Narrator: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,
Crowd: 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. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'

Narrator: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

Narrator: that is, *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Crowd: This man is calling for Elijah.

Narrator: 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. But the others said,

Crowd: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Narrator: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 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,

Centurion: Truly this man was God's Son!