

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE

## PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

SUNDAY MARCH 29 2026

### EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING THREE

#### PRELUDE

#### GATHERING (at the back)

#### ACCLAMATION

*The presiding minister begins (repeated one or more times):*

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.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>5</sup> "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."

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

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is

this?" <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **BLESSING OF 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 the holy city in triumph

and was proclaimed messiah and king

by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,

so that, joined to his death and resurrection,

we enter into life with you;

through the same Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace,

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

### **PROCESSION *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (ELW 344)**

#### **Refrain**

**All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**2** The company of angels  
are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals  
in chorus make reply. **Refrain**

**1** You are the king of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
our King and Blessed One. **Refrain**

**3** The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present. **Refrain**

**4** To you, before your passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. **Refrain**

**5** Their praises you accepted;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious King. **Refrain**

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Text: Public Domain.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

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.**

## **MEN'S CHOIR - Pave the Way with Branches - By Bret Hesla**

### **CHILDREN'S CHAT**

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

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord God has given me  
a trained tongue,  
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 in court together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

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

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16**

<sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

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

<sup>11</sup> I 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.

<sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup> For 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.

<sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, "You are my God.**

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

### **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11**

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and abounding in steadfast love.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 26:14—27:66**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup> One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief  
priests <sup>15</sup> and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid  
him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment he began to look for an  
opportunity to betray him.

<sup>17</sup> On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,  
“Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the  
Passover?” <sup>18</sup> He said, “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.’ ” <sup>19</sup> So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, <sup>21</sup> and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup> And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” <sup>23</sup> He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> 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.” <sup>25</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> 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.”

<sup>30</sup> When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

<sup>32</sup> “But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” <sup>35</sup> Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.” <sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup> Again he

went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." <sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

<sup>47</sup> 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. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." <sup>49</sup> At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> 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. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" <sup>55</sup> At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

<sup>57</sup> Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup> 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. <sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, <sup>60</sup> but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward <sup>61</sup> and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' " <sup>62</sup> The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." <sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "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.”

<sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death.” <sup>67</sup> Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> saying, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” <sup>71</sup> When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” <sup>72</sup> Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” <sup>73</sup> After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” <sup>74</sup> Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

<sup>27:1</sup> When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. <sup>2</sup> They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> He said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” <sup>5</sup> Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup> But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.” <sup>7</sup> After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. <sup>8</sup> For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

<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 rebels 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 rebels 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!”

<sup>55</sup> Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. <sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup> So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

<sup>62</sup> The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup> and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' <sup>64</sup> 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." <sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." <sup>66</sup> So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* (ELW 337)**

**1** Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
and did my sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head  
for sinners such as I?

**2** Was it for sins that I had done  
he groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
and love beyond degree!

**3** Well might the sun in darkness hide  
and shut its glories in  
when God, the mighty maker, died  
for his own creatures' sin.

**4** Thus might I hide my blushing face  
while his dear cross appears,  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
and melt my eyes to tears.

**5** But tears of grief cannot repay  
the debt of love I owe;  
here, Lord, I give myself away:  
'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Text: Public Domain.

## **NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 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.**

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\*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Protect civilians and soldiers during war. Be with the people of Ukraine and Iran as they are attacked and send peace to their areas. Stop oppressors from trying to destroy others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day (*especially Jason, Martha, Rhonda, Heather, Joan, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Karl, Elva, Eva, Barbara, Inge, Marcella, David, Gwen, Jeanette, James, Brittany, Jean, June, Katie, Viola, Lorna, Dorothy, Cary, Douglas, Cheryl, and those we name in our hearts and minds*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING *Now Is the Time of Grace (ACS 918) Refrain 2X*

### Refrain

Now is the time of grace,  
now is the day of salvation.  
Turn now, and seek God's face,  
now behold God's invitation.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9. Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

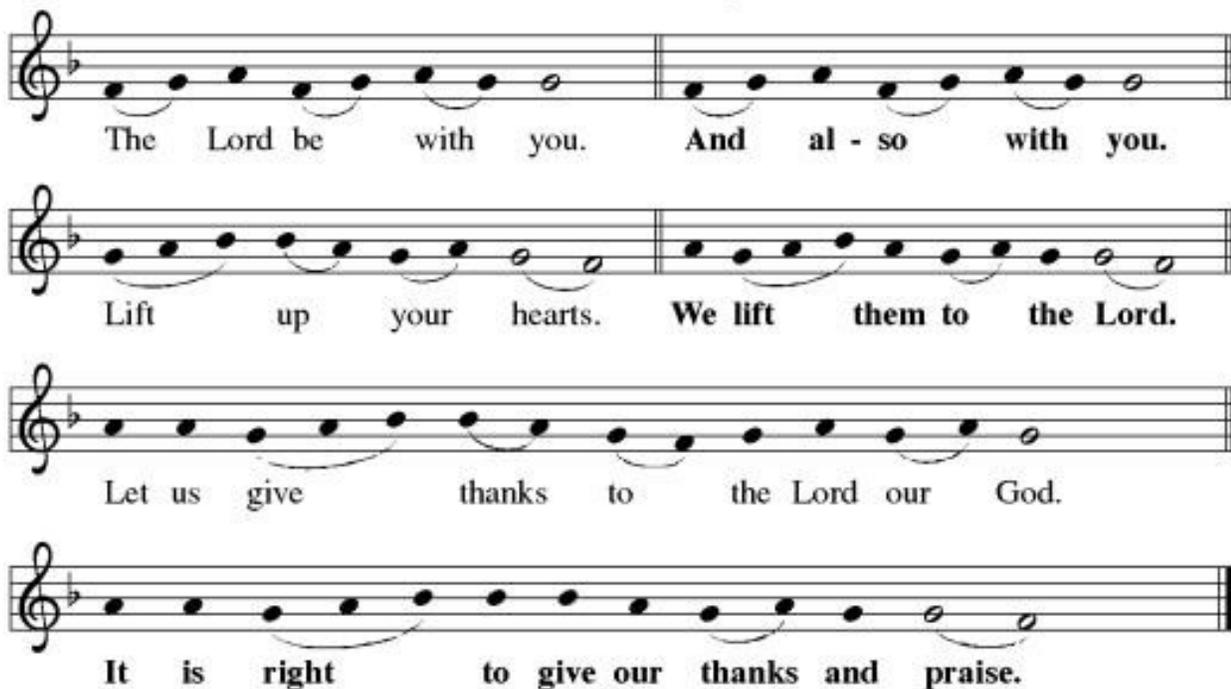
## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



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

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

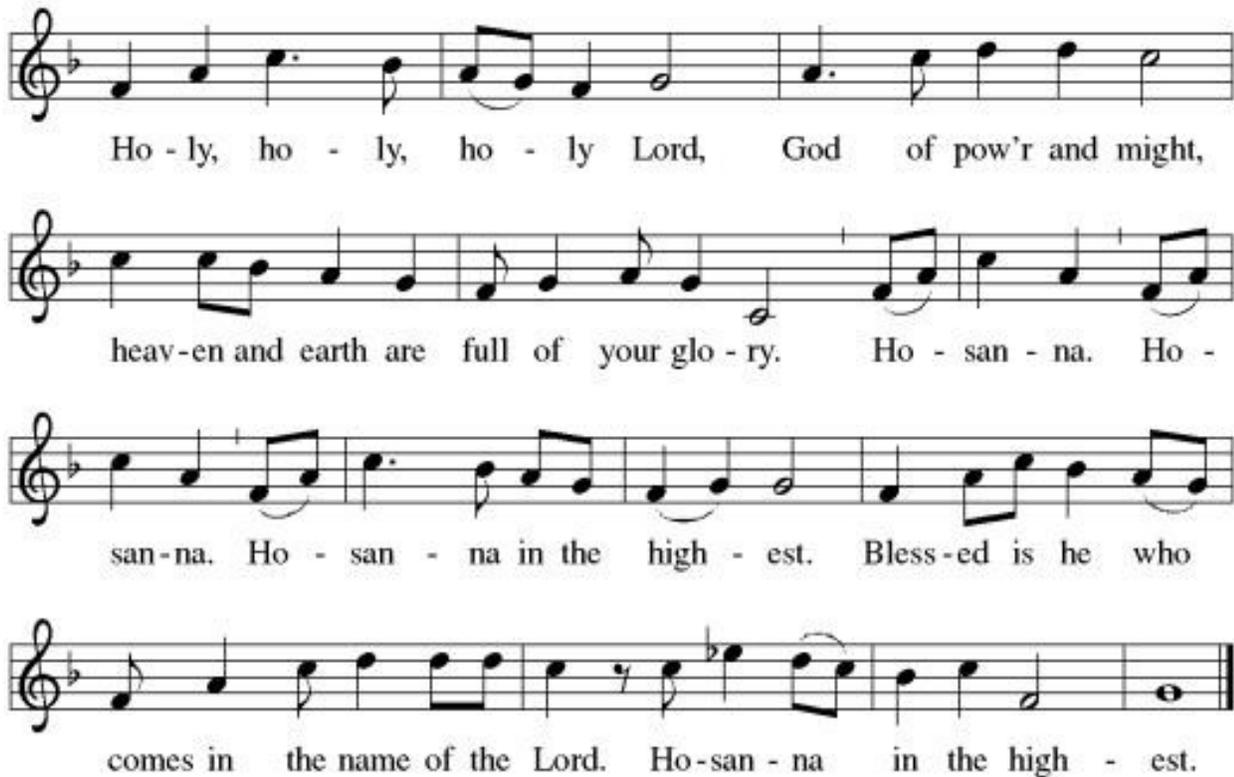
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

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, 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.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

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.

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



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.  
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN *My Song Is Love Unknown* (ELW 343)

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

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

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

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

**5** In life no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

**6** Here might I stay and sing--  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624–1683, alt. Text: Public Domain.

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Christ, the Life of All the Living* (ELW 339)**

**1** Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Christ, yourself for me once giving  
to the darkest depths of woe:  
through your suff'ring, death, and merit  
life eternal I inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
dearest Jesus, unto you.

**2** You have suffered great affliction  
and have borne it patiently,  
even death by crucifixion,  
fully to atone for me;  
for you chose to be tormented  
that my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,  
dearest Jesus, unto you.

**3** Then, for all that bought my pardon,  
for the sorrows deep and sore,  
for the anguish in the garden,  
I will thank you evermore;  
thank you for the groaning, sighing,  
for the bleeding and the dying,  
for that last triumphant cry,  
praise you evermore on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Text: Public Domain.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

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.**

## **SENDING SONG *There in God's Garden* (ELW 342)**

**1** There in God's garden  
stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth  
the healing of the nations:  
Tree of all knowledge,  
Tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.

**2** Its name is Jesus,  
name that says, "Our Savior!"  
There on its branches  
see the scars of suffering;  
see where the tendrils  
of our human selfhood  
feed on its lifeblood.

**3** Thorns not its own  
are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it,  
our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! it lives!  
its grief has not destroyed it  
nor fire consumed it.

**4** See how its branches  
reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says,  
"Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness,  
give me all your sorrow,  
I will give blessing."

**5** This is my ending,  
this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord,  
I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for;  
now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

**6** All heav'n is singing,  
"Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy  
healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations,  
take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982. Text Trans. © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **APRIL - EASTER SERVICES:**

**Maundy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm**

**Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am**

**Easter Morning Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am and 10:00 am**

**ATTENDANCE:      Sunday March 22: 57      Wednesday, March 25: 41**

**ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: March 30– April 5, 2026**

Monday:            8:30 am    Pickle Ball  
                         1:00 pm    Exercise Class  
                         5:30 pm    Messy Church  
                         7:00 pm    Pickle Ball  
                         7:00 pm    Music Healing Veterans

Tuesday:           9:30 am    Tai Chi  
                         6:30 pm    Tai Chi  
                         7:00 pm    Mixed Choir

Wednesday:       7:30 pm    Men’s Choir

Thursday:          9:30 am    Tai Chi  
                         7:00 pm    Maundy Thursday Service

Friday:             10:00 am   Good Friday Worship Service

Sunday:            8:00 am    Easter Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion  
                         10:00 am   Easter Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion

**TODAY’S SCHEDULED WORSHIP LEADERS**

Presiding Minister:    Pastor Scott Schellenberger  
Music Director:        Blaine Sack  
Worship Assistant:    Lorraine MacKenzie  
Sexton:                 Koit Rull  
Projector Operator:    Philip Vandersleen  
Video Recorder:        Korbin Smith  
Sound Operator:        Brian Smith  
Counters:               Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis, Wilmer Verch  
Altar Care:             Don Boldt  
Ushers:                 Allen Rose, Cheryl Sack  
Coffee Hour:            Lorraine MacKenzie, Michael Laabs

**PASTOR SCOTT & PASTOR SUE AWAY APRIL 6 - 12, 2026**

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodzynski, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Joan Lehman, Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Karl Hausser, Elva Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inge Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, David Brumm, Gwen Burchart, Jeanette Nevile, James Dean, Brittany, Jean Kuehl, June Popke, Katie, Viola Hill, Lorna Handke, Dorothy Scheuneman, Cary Lien, Douglas Crigger, Cheryl.

*If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.*

### DONATION

✠ A donation was made to the building fund by Robbie Gorr in memory of his mother, Ellen Gorr, who passed away six years ago on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

🌸 A donation has been made to the Easter flowers fund by Stan & Debbie Sitkiewicz in memory of Ken and Vera Schizkoske and in thankfulness to God for having such loving parents.

### EASTER FLOWERS AND DONATIONS

Anyone wishing to make an Easter donation to a special fund or towards Easter flowers can fill out a donation form and submit it to the office. The deadline for the Easter Sunday bulletin is **Monday March 30<sup>th</sup>**. Donation forms can be found at both entrances to the church.

**MESSY CHURCH Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.** Come join us for food, crafts, story, games, and fun! Come for an evening of fun and bring a friend!

**COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES Will resume on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm.**

**MORNING SOCIAL Please join us on Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** for our Morning Social. All are welcome!

### NO WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING IN APRIL

**BLENDED SERVICE There will be a Blended Service on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**IT'S A SURPRISE! Pastor Metzger is celebrating 95 years! After worship service on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a catered light lunch provided by Elaine Metzger. Please plan on joining us to celebrate! **PLEASE KEEP IT A SECRET!****

**APRIL GARAGE SALE** We are accepting donations for our garage sale that will be held at Zion on **Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am – 12:00 noon**. All items donated can be placed on either side of the stage in the parish hall. Thank you for your support.

**MIXED & MENS CHOIRS** Choir will be on **Tuesday's at 7:15 pm** and Mixed Choir on **Wednesday's at 7:15 pm., both returning to 7:00 pm on March 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS** Senior Exercise classes on **Monday Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 pm**. Please make sure to tell your friends and we look forward to seeing you!

**CAMP LUTHERLYN SPONSORSHIP** Would you like to sponsor or partially sponsor a child to go to camp this year? Registration cost is \$525. per child. If you need financial assistance for a child wanting to attend camp, please speak with Pastor Scott.



**LOOKING FOR** donations of used cotton or flannelette sheets for my quilts. If you have any to donate, please bring and leave in the church kitchen in a bag on the counter. Any questions please speak to Cheryl Sack.

## Garage Sale

**Saturday April 25, 2026  
8:00 am- 12:00 noon**



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
454 Miller St, Pembroke, ON

Come enjoy our cafe.  
**We welcome donations of tools, household items,  
toys, furniture, baking, clothes, etc.**  
Proceeds: 50% to Food Bank, 50% to General Fund

**Holy Week**  
MAUNDY THURSDAY

Worship Service  
Thursday April 2  
2026  
7:00 pm

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
*John 3:16-17*

**GOOD FRIDAY**

Worship Service  
Friday April 3 2026  
10:00 am

May this Holy Friday bring peace and blessings to all humanity.

**A Blessed Easter Sunday**

Worship Service With Holy Communion  
Sunday April 5 2026  
8:00 am  
&  
10:00 am

Reflect on the triumph of hope and faith, and show kindness with those around you.

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
454 Miller Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4  
613 732-8792

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
454 MILLER STREET, PEMBROKE, ON K8A 5Z4  
613 732-8792

CONTACT INFORMATION Rev. Scott Schellenberger & Rev. Sue Nevile Cell: 705-313-0333(Pr. Scott) Cell: 905-441-3283 (Pr. Sue) sschellenberger@hotmail.com&suebird98@hotmail.com Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 454 Miller Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4 Office: 613-732-8792