



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"  
Sunday, March 29, 2026

## PALM SUNDAY – SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

**Welcome** to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

**NURSERY AVAILABLE** We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

**For those wishing to commune at the Lords Table with us today:**

The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23–30). Thus, attendance at the Lords Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians; (2) accept the real presence of Christs body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of ones sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament; and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins. (*Grape juice is available for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available on the cup return table.*)

**Para aquellos que desean participar en la Santa Cena con nosotros hoy:** *La práctica luterana de la comunión intenta evitar que una persona coma y beba el juicio de Dios sobre sí mismo (1 Corintios 11:23–30). Por lo tanto, la asistencia a la Cena del Señor implica un compromiso de cuatro niveles con Cristo. Creemos que los comulgantes deben: (1) ser bautizados como cristianos; (2) aceptar la presencia real del cuerpo de Cristo en el pan y Su sangre en el vino; (3) confesar y arrepentirse de sus pecados y confiar en que Dios ofrece el perdón completo de esos pecados en este Sacramento; y (4) compartir la unidad de fe, doctrina y práctica entre los que comulgan. Aquellos que desean comulgar con nosotros hoy que no lo han hecho anteriormente, por favor vean al pastor o un anciano antes de que comience el servicio. (Hay jugo de uva para quienes no toman alcohol. Las hostias sin gluten están en la mesa de devolución de copas.)*

## + PREPARATION +

### THEME: “THE MIND OF CHRIST”

**AS WE GATHER:** Today we enter the Great and Holy Week of our faith, the very heart and center of God’s greatest act since the Creation itself—the salvation of mankind by the overthrow of sin, death, and the devil, and the restoration of all creation through the power of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. As we join the crowds welcoming Jesus, the one who comes in the name of the Lord, we plan to get swept up in the drama of the story many know so well.

Peter wrote, “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13). On this day “preparing [our] minds for action” makes us contemplate and consider what was in the mind of Jesus as He entered Jerusalem to the cheers of adults and children waving palms and shouting praise. What was our Lord thinking as He gathered His disciples for the Last Supper of Passover? As He prayed in Gethsemane’s garden? When He was arrested, falsely tried, beaten, abused, and sentenced to death by crucifixion? What was in the Savior’s mind as He hung on that cross? For the obvious impossibility of our ability to know the depths of the God who says, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways” (Isaiah 55:8), there is one thing we can know for sure—He had you in mind. We know that “God so loved the world” (John 3:16).

## PRELUDE

### “Hosanna In The Highest”

music by Allen Pote

### Ascension Choir

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be lifted up, O ancient doors,*

*That the King of Glory may come in.*

*Who is the King of glory?*

*The Lord strong and mighty, mighty in battle.*

*The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!*

## INVOCATION and RESPONSE

- P** In the name of the Father,
- C** **who loved us unconditionally, even before the foundation of the world;**
- P** and of His † Son, Jesus,
- C** **the name above all names, who came to pay a King's ransom for us;**
- P** and of the Holy Spirit,
- C** **who brings us to the faith and keeps us in the faith from the cradle to grave. Amen.**
- P** Hosanna!
- C** **Hosanna to the Son of David!**
- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
- C** **Hosanna in the highest!**

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11 (ESV)

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go into the village in front 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, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

<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 on them their cloaks, and He sat on them.

<sup>8</sup>Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>And the crowds that went before Him and that followed Him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” <sup>10</sup>And when He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>And the crowds said, “This is the Prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## ACCLAMATION

**P** All hail to Jesus, the King of our lives! Lift up your hearts and rejoice in Him!

**C** **He came from the very throne of God, but He gave that up to suffer a criminal’s death on the cross.**

**P** But God raised Him up that the ends of the earth may bow before Him as their King!

**C** **Jesus Christ is Lord! Hosanna!**

**P** In Him is forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

**C** **Have mercy on us, Lord! Bless us with Your peace! Hosanna! Hosanna!**

## ✠ PROCESSION OF PALMS ✠

The pastor, ushers, elders and others will place palm branches at the foot of the cross. The north side (piano side) of the congregation will then do the same, moving up the left side of the aisle, and returning to their seats by the opposite side of the aisle. The south side (pulpit side) will then do the same, moving up the center aisle, returning to their seats by the side aisle.

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

LSB 442

**Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor  
To You, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring.**

- 1 You are the King of Israel  
And David's royal Son,  
Now in the Lord's name coming,  
Our King and Blessèd One. **(refrain)**
- 2 The company of angels  
Is praising You on high,  
And we with all creation  
In chorus make reply. **(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 As You received their praises,  
Accept the prayers we bring,  
O Source of ev'ry blessing,  
Our good and gracious King. **(refrain)**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor, Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt., Text: Public domain

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Even though we sing joyful “hosannas” to our King, we come before You, Lord, aware of the sins that make us unworthy to praise You as we ought.  
We confess before You, Lord, that we have sinned against You.
- C** **We have sinned not only against You but one another, with what we have thought, what we have said, and by what we have or have not done.**
- P** We unseat You and put ourselves on the throne that belongs only to You.
- C** **Our pride in these and all sins deserves Your punishment, yet today we approach Your throne of grace, asking for Your mercy.**

**P** Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday to show His love for you at the cross. At the cross, He showed His passion for you by dying for your sins and paying the price we could not pay. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen! Thank You, Lord, for Your passion for us.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## **+ THE WORD +**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 50:4-9a (ESV)

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given Me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word  
him who is weary.

Morning by morning He awakens;  
He awakens My ear  
to hear as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened My ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave My back to those who strike,  
and My cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
I hid not My face  
from disgrace and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>But the Lord GOD helps Me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set My face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup>He who vindicates Me is near.  
Who will contend with Me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who is My adversary?  
Let him come near to Me.

<sup>9</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me;  
who will declare Me guilty?

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE READING

Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup>who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with  
God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made Himself nothing, taking the  
form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being  
found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to  
the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly  
exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every  
name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in  
heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue  
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

## PRAYER AND LOVE-IN-ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

# “My Song Is Love Unknown”

LSB 430



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to  
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -  
 3 Some-times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es  
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly  
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would  
 sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their  
 spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake  
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,  
 King. Then “Cru - ci - fy!” Is all their breath,  
 sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?  
 Who at my need His life did spend!  
 And for His death They thirst and cry.  
 Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

## SERMON “THE MIND OF CHRIST”

Pr. Jim Sprenkle  
 Philippians 2:5–11

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)*

### “My Song Is Love Unknown” (stanzas 5-7)

LSB 430

- 5 They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He  
To suffering goes That He His foes  
From thence might free.
- 6 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.
- 7 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!

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** O God, for all the joy with which the people in Jerusalem greeted Your Son that day when He entered the holy city for the final time and for all the joy we feel this day as we gather before You in praise and worship, we recall His goal that week and our great need for His accomplishment of Your will of salvation. Grant that the remembrance of His innocent suffering and death draw us nearer to You in true repentance of our sin. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Grant that the Good News of Your work of salvation through Your Son for the life of the world be proclaimed throughout our world today by Your holy church. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant Your blessing and guidance to all servant-leaders in our country and in all nations, that righteousness and peace may prevail. End all conflicts or wars. Bless all institutions of learning and research. Grant success to farmers and producers of food for all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** As we all contend with the challenges of living still in a fallen world, we pray for Your help and healing of all who are sick, injured, troubled in any way, those who are lonely or afraid... Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Thank You, Lord, for Your goodness in giving us saving faith, abundant life, cherished relationships and other amazing blessings. We rejoice with those who celebrate this week...Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## + THE PASSION OF OUR LORD +

### HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26 and 27 (ESV)

*(The congregation reads the parts in bold)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Passion of Our Lord.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

### JUDAS AGREES TO BETRAY JESUS

**(Matthew 26:14-16, 21-25)**

<sup>14</sup>Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and said, "What will you give me if I deliver Him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray Him.<sup>21</sup>And as they were eating, He said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." <sup>22</sup>And they were very sorrowful and began to say to Him one after another,

**"Is it I, Lord?"**

<sup>23</sup>He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with Me will betray Me. <sup>24</sup>The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." <sup>25</sup>Judas, who would betray Him, answered,

**"Is it I, Rabbi?"**

He said to him, "You have said so."

### JESUS' PREDICTION OF PETER'S DENIAL

**(Matthew 26:31-35)**

<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 before you to Galilee." <sup>33</sup>Peter answered Him,

**"Though they 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 rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” <sup>35</sup>Peter said to Him,

**“Even if I must die with You, I will not deny You!”**

And all the disciples said the same.

### **JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE (Matthew 26:36-46)**

<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>And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup>Then He said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me.” <sup>39</sup>And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

**<sup>40</sup>And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping.**

And He said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with Me one hour? <sup>41</sup>Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup>Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

**<sup>43</sup>And 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 again. <sup>45</sup>Then He came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Rise, let us be going; see, My betrayer is at hand.”

## **JUDAS' BETRAYAL AND THE ARREST OF JESUS** **(Matthew 26:47-56)**

<sup>47</sup>While He was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great 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; seize Him." <sup>49</sup>And he came up to Jesus at once and said,

**"Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed Him.**

<sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do."

**Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.**

<sup>51</sup>And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut 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 perish 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 should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" <sup>55</sup>At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture Me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. <sup>56</sup>But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

**Then all the disciples left Him and fled.**

## **PETER'S DENIAL** **(Matthew 26:69-75)**

<sup>69</sup>Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

<sup>70</sup>But he denied it before them all, saying,

**"I do not know what you mean."**

<sup>71</sup>And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>72</sup>And 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 too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.”  
<sup>74</sup>Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,

**“I do not know the man.”**

And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup>And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

### **JESUS BEFORE PILATE (Matthew 27:11-17, 21-26)**

<sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.”

<sup>12</sup>But when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He gave no answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify 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 feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” <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 shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said,

**“Let Him be crucified!”**

<sup>23</sup>And he said, “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 was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” <sup>25</sup>And all the people answered,

**“His blood be on us and on our children!”**

<sup>26</sup>Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered Him to be crucified.

### **THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS (Matthew 27:27-31)**

<sup>27</sup>Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before Him.

<sup>28</sup>And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, <sup>29</sup>and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and put a reed in His right hand. And kneeling before Him, they mocked Him, saying,

**“Hail, King of the Jews!”**

<sup>30</sup>And they spit on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head. <sup>31</sup>And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him and led Him away to crucify Him.

### **JESUS' CRUCIFIXION (Matthew 27:32-44)**

<sup>32</sup>As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. 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 garments among them by casting lots. <sup>36</sup>Then they sat down and kept watch over Him there. <sup>37</sup>And over His head they put the charge against Him, which read,

**“This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”**

<sup>38</sup>Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup>And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying,

**“You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”**

<sup>41</sup>So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying,

**<sup>42</sup>“He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He desires Him. For He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”**

<sup>44</sup>And the robbers who were crucified with Him also reviled Him in the same way.

### **THE DEATH OF JESUS (Matthew 27:45-54)**

<sup>45</sup>Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup>And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” <sup>47</sup>And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said,

**“This man is calling Elijah.”**

<sup>48</sup>And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed 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>And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit. <sup>51</sup>And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And 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>and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>When the centurion and those who were with Him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

**“Truly this was the Son of God!”**

## **JESUS' BURIAL** **(Matthew 27:57-61)**

<sup>57</sup>When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was 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>And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud <sup>60</sup>and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup>Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

## **PILATE POSTS A GUARD** **(Matthew 27:62-66)**

<sup>62</sup>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 how that impostor said, while He was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' <sup>64</sup>Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples go and steal Him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will 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 and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

**P** This is the Passion of our Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## **BENEDICTION**

Numbers 6:24–26

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

*(We depart in silence as we anticipate the  
journey of our Lord to the cross.)*

*Thank you to Joann Schulz for the lovely altar flowers,  
given to the glory of God.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.

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**† LENTEN SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

Maundy Thursday: April 2 at 7:00pm

Good Friday: Friday, April 3 at 7:00pm

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 4 at 10:30am

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 5 at 8:30 and 11:00am Worship.

9:30am Breakfast

**† CHRISTIANITY 101**

Mondays, March 30, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, from 10:30 to 11:30am. To sign up, let Pastor Jim know, call 503-665-8821 or email [office@alcportland.org](mailto:office@alcportland.org).

**† EASTER EGG HUNT**

The Outreach Board is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at Vance Park on Sat. April 4 beginning at 10:30am. If you want to help, talk to Cindy Reinert.

**† EASTER BREAKFAST**

Easter Breakfast will be on April 5 from 9:30 to 10:45am. Tickets are on sale after both services; they are \$5 per person; families of 4 or more \$20; children 10 and under are free. Save your ticket to be entered for door prizes. If you would like to bring food items for breakfast, see the whiteboard in the Narthex to sign up. If you have any items to donate toward our door prizes (new or GENTLY used) you may bring them and place them on the countertop on the far wall of the kitchen.

**† YOUTH AND FAMILY NIGHT FOR EVERYONE**

Everyone is invited to a multiple church event that will include music and square dancing. The youth and family did this once before and everyone who was involved had a blast! Friday, April 10 at 6:30pm.

**† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

Debbie Rekdahl, Carolyn Shore, The Family of Cal Stabenow, The family of Barbara Schrader, The family of Jerry Bangs, The family of Mike Fogarty, Regan, Diane and Ed and Ingrid (friends and neighbors of Cynthia Jacobsen), Barbara Lewis, Chenery Whittier's son (Aaryan), Heather Gulde, Riki Neagle, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, \*Larry Hart, \*Mel and Lorraine Haggard. \*Home Bound.

**† PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY**

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)  
Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy, Kaneohe Bay HI (nephew of Merci)

McInaney)  
 Clayton Wright, Air Force – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)  
 Colton Wright, Navy – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)  
 Tyler Young, Navy – Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).  
 Bradley Zeller, Army – Fort Lewis WA (grandson of the Zeller's)  
 Kyle Zeller, Army – Deployed to Poland (grandson of the Zeller's)

**GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS**

February General Fund Tithes	\$ 44,797.42
February Expenses	<u>\$ 35,169.14</u>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>+ \$ 9,628.28</b>

**DEDICATED OFFERINGS**

<i>February Dedicated Offerings</i>	\$ 162.00
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**ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY MARCH 29, 2026**

	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Randy Schroeder	Herb Hoefler
<b>Ushers:</b>	Duke Sheppard Bryant Sheppard	Marcus Young Paul Walter
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Stan Chapulis	Caleb Zeebuyth
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Debbie Rekdahl	Alex Hodges
<b>Greeters:</b>	Millie Edwards	NEEDED
<b>Readers:</b>	None Needed	None Needed
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services: Debbie Rekdahl	
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services: Joann Schulz	
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services: Lottie Guericke and Stan Chapulis	
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Hana and Gina: Unit 3, Lesson 2	

**ASSISTING MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026**

	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	John Hazen
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b> <b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Stan Chapulis
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Jenny Schuldheisz
<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services: All Altar Guild
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services: Sandy Kirchner and Cindy Reinert

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**ASSISTING GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026**

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**7:00pm**  
**Elder:** Herb Hoefler  
**Ushers:** **NEEDED**  
**NEEDED**  
**Audio/Visual:** Stan Chapulis  
**PowerPoint:** Jenny Schuldheisz  
**Greeters:** **NEEDED**  
**Altar Guild:** Both Services: All Altar Guild  
**Counters:** Both Services: Sandy Kirchner and Cindy Reinert

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**ASSISTING NEXT SUNDAY, EASTER, APRIL 5, 2026**

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	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Randy Schroeder	Wyatt Brown
<b>Ushers:</b>	Duke Sheppard Bryant Sheppard	Don Brown Paul Walter
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Stan Chapulis	J. E. Knox
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rosemary Knox
<b>Greeters:</b>	Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado	Carrie Graham
<b>Readers:</b>	Rich Bartell	Karon Keup
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services: All Altar Guild	
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services: Altar Guild	
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services: Sandy Kirchner and Cindy Reinert	
<b>Sunday School:</b>	No Sunday School	

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**EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., MAR. 29–SAT., APR. 4, 2026**

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<b>Sunday, Mar. 29</b>	8:30am	Worship
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
<b>Monday, Mar. 30</b>	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
<b>Tuesday, Mar. 31</b>	2:30pm	Confirmation
<b>Wednesday, Apr. 1</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Thursday, Apr. 2</b>	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
<b>Friday, Apr. 3</b>	7:00pm	Good Friday Worship
<b>Saturday, Apr. 4</b>	10:30am	Easter Egg Hunt in Vance Park

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## EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., APR. 5–SAT., APR. 11, 2026

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<b>Sunday, April 5</b>	8:30am	Worship
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	9:30am	Easter Breakfast
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	<b>NO</b> Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
<b>Monday, April 6</b>		Office Closed
	1:00pm	Human Care Board Meeting
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
<b>Tuesday, April 7</b>	2:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
<b>Thursday, April 9</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Friday, April 10</b>	6:30pm	Youth and Family Square Dancing

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## MILESTONES – Sunday, March 29 through Sat., April 4

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### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Luke Teyema	Mar. 30	Elly Brown	Apr. 1
Jim Conway	Apr. 1	Gina Kreps	Apr. 1
Eileen Hatley	Apr. 3		

### BIRTHDAYS:

Janice Hart	Mar. 29	Steven Schaefer	Mar. 29
Hilary Sylvia	Mar. 29	Clydette Hilliard	Mar. 31
Barbara Patch	Mar. 31		

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Paul and Debbie Walter	March 29, 1975
John and Wendy Hazen	April 4, 1981

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### Attendance

Sunday, March 22	8:30am	44
	11:00am	78
	<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Adult Ed. Class</b>		
Sunday, March 22		36

# Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Office Phone: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://www.alcportland.org)

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

## Our Mission Statement:

*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

## Our Vision Statement:

*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”*

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

## STAFF

**Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor**  
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**Rev. Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor**  
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