

PASSION SUNDAY 2026

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES CHOIR MUSICAL OFFERING

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

P: Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross. Join us to his death and resurrection, and enter into our lives today;

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

Hosanna in the Highest!

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

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

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.”**

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

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

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *All Glory Laud and Honor* (ELW 344)

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re-deem-er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Gospel: Matthew 26:14—27:66

P: The Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew, **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*All are invited to read the words in **bold**.*

2) Matthew: One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, **“What will you give me if I betray him to you?”** They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Matthew: 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?”**

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.’ ”

Matthew: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

GREAT THANKSGIVING- DIALOGUE (Table is set beforehand)

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 du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;
whose suffering and death gave sal - va - tion to all.
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
trans - form - ing death in - to life.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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HOLY HOLY HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

3) Matthew: When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, and while they were eating he said,

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

Matthew: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, **“Surely not I, Lord?”**

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.”

Matthew: Judas, who betrayed him, said, **“Surely not I, Rabbi?”**

Jesus: “You have said so.”

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, even as we remember the story of Jesus last meal with his friends, we remember how he loved them, despite their imminent betrayal and denial of him. We know you are with us here and now, just as you were for

those disciples so many years ago. We praise you for Jesus the Christ, our gracious host of this feast of love.

Amen.

4) Matthew: 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.”**

Matthew: 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.”

THANKSGIVING CONTINUES...

P: Holy God, we remember today Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, and we come now to drink this fruit with you today in your Kingdom.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food, and wash away our sin.

Revive us with the love of Christ, for all glory and honor is yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table. Feast on God’s goodness and mercy.

C: Amen

Please be seated- the ushers will come to each pew to invite you forward for communion. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request. Anyone is welcome to come forward for a blessing if they do not receive communion.

COMMUNION SONG

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

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

After receiving communion, you may be seated: The Passion Story Continues

Matthew: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

5) Matthew: Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: “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.’

“But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

6) Matthew: Peter said to him, **“Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”**

Matthew: Jesus said to him,

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

Matthew: Peter said to him, **“Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.”** And so said all the disciples.

7) Matthew: 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."

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

Jesus: "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

Matthew: 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."

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)

**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.**

8) Matthew: 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."

Matthew: 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.”

Matthew: 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Matthew: Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus: “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. Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

9) Matthew: 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, “**The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.**” At once he came up to Jesus and said, “**Greetings, Rabbi!**” and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

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

Matthew: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

10) Matthew: 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 die 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?”

Matthew: 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 rebel? 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.”

11) Matthew: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

HYMN OF THE DAY- ELW 343 MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN

The Passion Story Continues

12) Matthew: Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where 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, **“This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’ ”** The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” 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.”** 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.”

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

14) Matthew: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant

came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before all of them, saying, “**I do not know what you are talking about.**” 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.” Again he denied it with an oath, “**I do not know the man.**” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “**I do not know the man!**” At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

Jesus: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

Matthew: And he went out and wept bitterly.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Remembering our failure to live as God has called us, just as Peter did on this night, let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(a brief pause)

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdainingly the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

The Passion Story Continues

Matthew: 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.

15) Matthew: 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, "**I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.**" But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." 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, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." 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 commanded me."

16) Matthew: Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, **"Are you the king of the Jews?"**

Jesus: "You say so."

Matthew: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Matthew: 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, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

17) Matthew: 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."** 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, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

18) Matthew: All of them said, **"Let him be crucified!"** Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, **"Let him be crucified!"**

19) Matthew: 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." Then the people as a whole answered, **"His blood be on us and on our children!"**

20) Matthew: So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

21) Matthew: 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, **"Hail, King of the Jews!"** 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.

22) Matthew: As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ 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.

23) Matthew: 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.”**

24) Matthew: Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads 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.”** In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, **“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.’ ”** The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

25) Matthew: 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?” “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Matthew: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, **“This man is calling for Elijah.”** 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, **“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”** Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

26) Matthew: 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.

27) Matthew: 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!”**

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

29) Matthew: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself 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 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.

30) Matthew: The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “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.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

SENDING HYMN- ELW 803- WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDEROUS CROSS

PEACE AND DISMISSAL

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Go and share Christ's peace, care for one another as we wait for resurrection.

Thanks be to God!