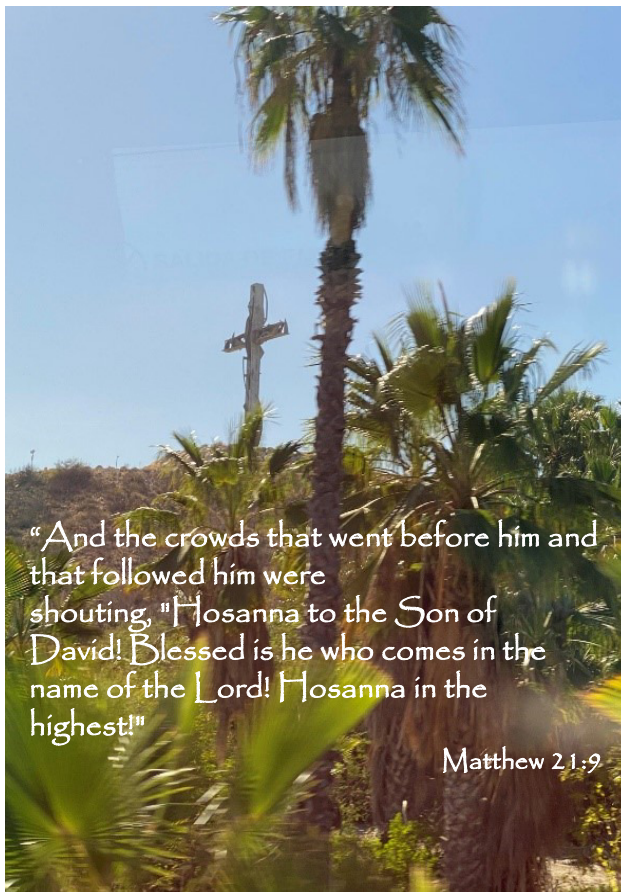


Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 29, 2026
9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion



“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!”

Matthew 21:9

“Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ”

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86, Eaton, Ohio 45320

937.456.6258

Email: GraceEaton111@gmail.com

Website: www.gracelutheranofeaton.com

Pastor Dwight Hanson

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

In Holy Communion our Lord Jesus graciously invites those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to receive His sacred and real presence for the forgiveness of sins.

In addition to wine, grape juice is also offered.

Children who do not yet receive Communion may receive a blessing.

Please take a moment this morning to fill out the “Attendance & Communion” Registration Cards (located in the pew racks). Pass your card to the end of your pew.

Please silence electronic devices.

P - Presiding Minister

A - Assisting minister **C - Congregation**

* - PLEASE STAND

+ + +

FANFARE PRELUDE:

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (setting by: Southbridge)

***WORDS OF WELCOME:**

P Please rise and face the processional cross at the entrance to the sanctuary.
We gather in the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***PALM SUNDAY PRAYER:**

P Let us pray: It is right to praise you, almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way.

C Bless these palm branches and let them be for us signs of the victory of Christ. Grant that we who bear them may ever hail Jesus as our King and follow on the path that leads to eternal life; in Jesus’ name, who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

P Praise to Christ who comes as Messiah and Savior of the world!

C Hosanna to the Son of David!

ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

P Hear the word of the Lord:

9Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

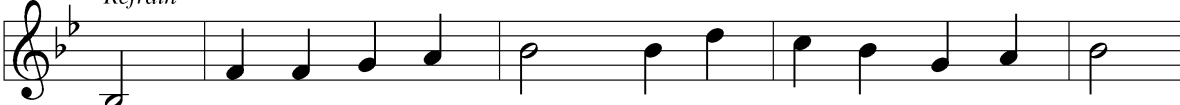
¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea ...

P Raise your palm branches and hear the ancient proclamation: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”


C **Hosanna in the highest!**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” vs. 1,3,5**
(LBW #108)


Refrain



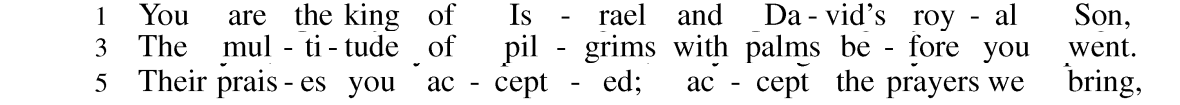
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,




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,




3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went.

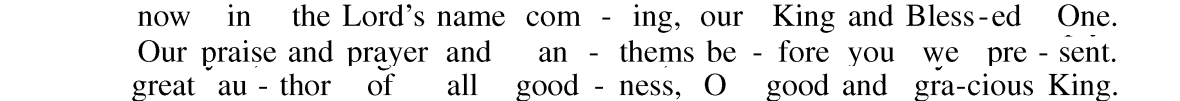


5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.



Our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

C **Hosanna in the highest!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P Let us pray: Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior;

C **who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A A Reading from Isaiah:

⁴The 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. ⁵The LORD God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. ⁶I 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. ⁷But 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. ⁸He 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. ^{9a} Behold, the LORD God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 118:19-26

A ¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

C ²⁰**This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**

A ²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

C ²²**The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.**

A ²³This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

C ²⁴**This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

A ²⁵Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

C ²⁶**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And 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!" ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

A The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson—Humble or Strong

Palm Sunday; 3/29/2026; Grace Lutheran Church; Pastor Dwight Hanson
Zechariah 9:9-10; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:19-26; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11 (ESV)

Children's message: Can you picture a king from a long time ago, in a big castle, and so on? It's not hard to imagine that king wanting to walk out of that stuffy castle, put on some regular clothes, and just be with the regular people. Now, imagine if God came down and walked among *us*. He did. That's Jesus. But would the people ever recognize who he was? On that first Palm Sunday, whether they fully understood it or not, the people called out the right words. Jesus was and is the true King from Heaven. His Kingdom never falls apart. In fact, it continues to grow. How does God's Kingdom grow? One heart at a time, your heart, my heart, and the hearts of millions. The mission of the Christian Church is to help that Kingdom grow. We're here to listen to the true story of God's mighty deeds for us, to love him for it, and to tell others about it. Let's pray...

Humble or Strong

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. It's a simple, worldly rule, seemingly written into life as we know it: One can be *either* strong *or* humble, but not both at the same time. People often learn *humility*. But how? Through the *defeat* of some *strength* of theirs. It just seems to be how it works—one or the other. Now, I'm not sure what age this rule is learned, or if it comes pre-loaded with original sin, but the lesson certainly gets reinforced along the way—humble or strong. Venture out, if you dare, to the nearest playground at recess. Maybe things have changed, but when I was young, a big pile of snow meant one thing, “king of the hill.” Some lessons come with higher tuition. But the rule stood.

Therefore, if we were to try to challenge this well-established either/or rule, and do it convincingly, it would require some significant piece of evidence. Welcome to Palm Sunday! This day, properly understood, involves a mighty confrontation, truth-claim versus truth-claim. But first, we need to know if the rule we've been talking about existed back in the time when Jesus walked the earth.

Return to the beginning of the Gospel according to Matthew, back to Bethlehem. There was the vulnerable child named Jesus. Could his welcome into the world have been any more basic? Thrust into unusual and stressful circumstances, he was under the care of young parents who tended to every need as best they could. The infant was humble, but not strong, at least not yet.

At that same time, if one swung the focus a few miles away, to Jerusalem, there was the King, Herod the Great, strong, but not humble. As the historical record shows, he was willing to do just about anything to grasp and maintain power. Jesus was born, as it ominously says in Matthew 2:1, “*in the days of Herod the king.*” The vulnerable little holy family found itself fleeing from the powerful, unholy Herod. The either/or rule seemed to be reinforced. But God had a plan at an appointed time. That would come when Jesus was an adult. Until then, the world went on with its ways, strength here, humility there.

Then the time arrived. Jesus began with forty days of challenge. “*Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me’*” (Mt. 4:8-9). Strength was offered at the cost of humility and truth, splendor without service. *Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve’*” (Mt. 4:10). Our Lord, fully tested, did not grasp for more. And when the ordeal was over, the Heavenly Father sent angels to minister to him.

The disciples, on the other hand, seemed to have an uncomfortable fascination with the ways of the world. When they were arguing over who would sit at Jesus’ right and left in his Kingdom (imagining seats of power and authority), our Lord had to set them straight. “*You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant...even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many*” (Mt. 20:25b-28).

That encounter took place in Matthew, chapter twenty, at a point when matters were moving quickly. In the words of Jesus, one could detect that *he knew* what was coming. Anyone who’s ever been in a canoe that’s approaching rapids knows the feeling of being drawn forward, with increasing speed and danger. So it was on that original Palm Sunday.

The truth about Jesus would stay hidden no more. In him, strength and humility formed the perfect combination. The time had come. This was a crucial moment in the relationship between human beings and their Maker. All that had occurred in the generations prior to that Palm Sunday had been leading up to it. All history after that fateful week will be judged according to it. *Who do we say that he is?*

When we recount Holy Week, we're not just playing history. We don't gawk at Palm Sunday from the sleepy distance of two thousand years, mildly fascinated by ancient pageantry. We're taking in the apostolic account of something that matters to all people.

The King of Glory rode into Jerusalem to claim his rightful place. In doing so, he snapped the old worldly rule in half. We'll sing a hymn during Communion that proclaims the words: "*Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne*" (LBW #170). A lamb on a royal throne? Bring on a LION. What kind of people, in what kind of realm, would seek a lamb for its guardian? A redeemed people would, in a realm of goodness, where sin, death, and the devil haunt and destroy no more.

"*Behold, your king is coming to you...humble and mounted on a donkey...*" (Zech. 9:9). He did not arrive in a chariot, pulled by well-trained war horses. The parade route was populated by regular folks—the disciples, and families of pilgrims who had come for the Passover. Just a few verses after our text for today, Jesus was welcomed into the temple complex by "*the blind and lame*" (21:14), and *children* cried out, "*Hosannah to the son of David*" (21:15)! When the chief priests and scribes confronted Jesus about what these simple people were saying, hoping to stop it, the Messiah replied: "*Out of the mouths of infants...you have prepared praise*" (21:16).

The whole picture was rather confusing. A man on a donkey appeared to be no threat. But this talk of a "king" would certainly catch the attention of the Roman authorities, especially with such sizeable crowds. The local authorities, the Sanhedrin, would have been upset, as well. For before Jesus arrived in the temple, on his way in, he *cleansed it* (Mt. 21:12ff), flipping tables and chasing money changers out. This was no docile move. Later, when he became entirely passive, it wasn't because he had no recourse to power. It was because some battles cannot be won through strength of arms. How does one win over a heart? What he endured, he endured for us.

Christ, himself, was the place of meeting between God and people. Jesus was the Lamb of the final sacrifice, fulfilling the mission of the temple. The wages of sin have been paid, once, for all. Peace has arrived, and strength unknown by the ways of the world.

Oh, the ways of the world are very much present. They were certainly there in the garden of Gethsemane: "*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” (Mt. 26:51). Wouldn't the new King need a loyal body guard? *“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels”*” (Mt. 26:52-53)?

It was not for lack of strength that Jesus would suffer. There was more to the matter. *“‘But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?’ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, ‘Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.’ Then all the disciples left him and fled”* (Mt. 26:54-56).

Surely, if Jesus would have asked the disciples to fight to the death, *that* they would have understood. The garden would have been the glorious place of their last stand, or the beginning of the takeover finally to set things straight. “Gethsemane” would have become the rallying cry.

But if not that, then what was happening? They couldn't handle it. So, they fled. There was also an adversarial spiritual power at work, and things had gotten very dark. Jesus, both humble AND strong, stood alone. He *“did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped”* (Philippians 2:6). So, he humbled himself and took on the nature of a servant.

This is how we enter into the great and holy week, pondering the mystery of Christ, the embodiment of strength *and* humility, trying to picture the strange but wonderful scene of a Lamb upon a throne. We take our place on Palm Sunday, adding our voices to those from long ago: fishermen, pilgrims from Galilee and elsewhere, children, the blind and lame: *“Sing we the song of the Lamb who was slain, dying in weakness and rising to reign; dying in weakness and rising to reign!”* (LBW #525, from “Blessing and Honor”). Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “Blessing and Honor” (LBW 525)**



1 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and pow'r, wis - dom and
2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name; let all the
3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy, ev - er de -
4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb! Take we the



rich - es and strength ev - er - more, be to the Lamb who our
earth sing his glo - ry and fame. O - cean and moun - tain, stream,
scend - ing the love from on high; bless - ing and hon - or and
robe and the harp and the palm; sing we the song of the



bat - tle has won, whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the
for - est, and flow'r ech - o his prais - es and tell of his
glo - ry and praise—this is the theme of the hymns that we
Lamb who was slain, dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to



throne; whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne!
pow'r; ech - o his prais - es and tell of his pow'r.
raise; this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.
reign; dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to reign!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt.

Music: AMERICAN HYMN, Matthias Keller, 1813–1875

***NICENE CREED:**

**C 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,
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

A Let us pray: Almighty God, eternal and steadfast, make us solid in faithfulness through the power of Jesus. We thank you for your determination to save us. By the strength of the Holy Spirit, give us hearts and voices that desire to praise Christ all of our days. May we bear witness to the whole world, and may hearts of stone be softened and turned toward your Kingdom. Reign in our hearts, O King of kings. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Grant us a meaningful Holy Week, O God. Guide us through your Word as we make the sacred journey into Jerusalem for the most important days in the history of the world. What happened back then changed everything for the rest of time. Open our eyes to the true King of Glory. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray on behalf of the needs of the world. For the war-torn and those exhausted from disasters. Cause your peace to reign among all nations, from sea to sea. Guide all of our government officials that they would seek your wisdom for the good of all. Protect all who seek to serve honorably in harm's way. And we ask your holy blessing upon our schools. Be with staff, families and students, that the youngest among us are guided through their growing years in ways that are wholesome and helpful, according to your will. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We lift up to your care all who stand in need of healing of any kind: *Jim Carlisle, Claude Dixon, Randy Foust, Barb Goebel, Michael Good, Amy & Bryan Jackson, Tech Sergeant Carter Lee, Bernard Lehman, Richard Lehman, Becky Lenk, SSG, Brandon Mann, Barb Orr, Gordon Self, Justin Shetter, Jackie Steiner, Mark & Jary Tannehill, George & Barb Suggs, Wayne Williams, Linda Woesner*, as well as those whom we name in our hearts at this time (pause for silent prayer). Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,

C Trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE:**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

ANTHEM: "Messiah Has Come" Choir

***OFFERTORY:** *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow—
The Doxology”*

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**


- P** Let us pray: Heavenly Father, on this day when our Lord entered Jerusalem to a royal welcome, the words shouted by the crowds were true, and yet Jesus suffered the misunderstandings and betrayals of many, including those who were closest to him. We ask forgiveness for all the ways of Sin, our own misunderstandings and betrayals, our hardness of heart, our bondage to our own wills at the expense of serving your Kingdom and meeting the needs of others.
- C** **By the power of the Holy Spirit and the gracious presence of our Lord Jesus in Holy Communion, give us new and willing hearts.
Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION:**


***GREAT THANKSGIVING:**




P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

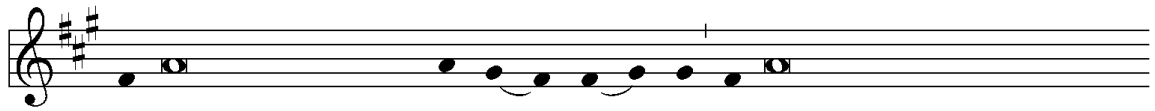


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

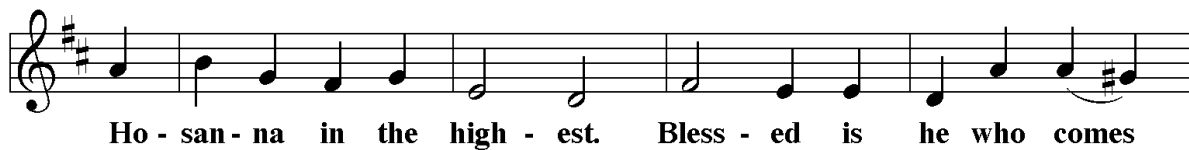


C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE:**



***SANCTUS:**



P Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

P 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.

***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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION & BLESSING OF CHILDREN

Holy Communion will be offered as you kneel at the chancel rail.

COMMUNION SONGS: "Lamb of God"



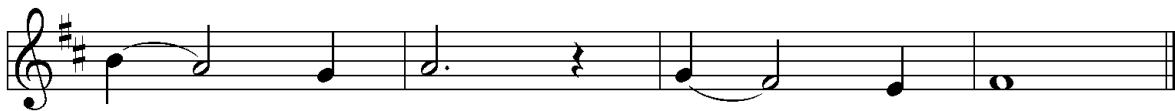
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

**“Crown Him with Many Crowns”
(LBW 170)**

**“O Bread of Life from Heaven”
(LBW 222)**

**“Let Us Break Bread Together”
(LBW 212)**

***THE BLESSING:**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

P Let us pray:

C **Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one Heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION:**

P Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN: “Lead On, O King Eternal!” (LBW 495)**

***DISMISSAL:**

P Go in peace and serve the true King of all.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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**The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by
Kelly & Kierstyn Coffman in Honor & Celebration of Allen’s 50th Birthday!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for Holy Week 2026



PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP—TODAY! March 29—9:30 a.m. w/Holy Communion

NO LENTEN SOUP SUPPER OR WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY EVENING



MAUNDY THURSDAY—April 2—7:00 p.m. w/Holy Communion & The Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY—April 3—7:00 p.m. Holy Week continues as we enter the sanctuary in *silence*.



CARRY-IN EASTER BREAKFAST WILL BE OFFERED ON EASTER SUNDAY (4/5) FROM 8:00—9:00 a.m. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or fellowship hall, indicating the number attending, what you would like to bring, and/or if you can help with set up or clean up.

EASTER SUNDAY—April 5—9:30 a.m. w/Holy Communion



The Ohio Mission Region

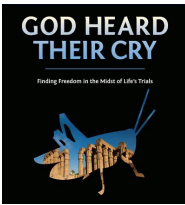
“Not Ashamed”—of the Gospel! (Romans 1:16-17), May 1 & 2 – Grove City, OH
All are invited!

Registration materials in the narthex – due in church office by Easter.

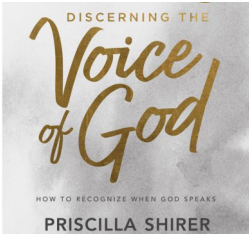


CALLING ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS TO JOIN IN EASTER WORSHIP

On Easter Sunday, instruments will play with the organ and the congregation during the first and last hymns. Would you like to join us? We will **rehearse** on **Saturday, April 4th** at **10:30**. Please talk to **Janet Burkett** so that you can pick up your music and have your questions answered. Everyone who plays is welcome.



The Adult Education Class will begin a new, 5-week series — **GOD HEARD THEIR CRY**—*Finding freedom in the midst of life's trials*. A Ray Vander Laan series from “Focus on the Family”. The class will **start Sunday, April 12** and go through May 10th. We hope you will join us for these very interesting sessions.



On Monday, April 13, 2026, Phoebe Women's Bible Study will begin a new study “*Discerning the Voice of God – How to recognize when God is speaking*” by Priscilla Shirer. This seven-session study explores how God 'will find a way to speak to you in a way you will understand'. Although we may be in different places in our individual spiritual walks, along the way each of us may question if we are truly hearing from God. This study will help answer the question 'Is that you, God?' in our commitment to follow his will. **Phoebe meets the second Monday of the month** at church, from 7-9pm. We invite our sisters in Christ to join us for this time of study, prayer, and fellowship. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle for more information: 937-336-1223 or kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE—COMING IN JUNE

The 2026 Vacation Bible School

The Amazing Race ~ Journeys of the Apostle Paul

is scheduled for **June 21-25 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

At this point in our planning we are in need of donations of maps (lots of maps!) that can be cut up and used for crafts and decorations as well as old-looking suitcases and briefcases (these will be returned) and suitcase-sized boxes.

Keep 'in touch' for updates & how you can help with this exciting experience!!



Nourish The Body, Nourish The Spirit

An Event Presented by Nancy Parkinson

Mon. June 15, 2026

5:30-8:00 p.m.

Miami University, Nutrition Department

All Are Welcome!

More information will follow closer to the event!



GRACE AT A GLANCE

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Dr., P.O. Box 86 - Eaton, OH 45320
Phone: 937-456-6258 Email: GraceEaton111@gmail.com
www.gracelutheranofeaton.com ~ ~ Like us on Facebook

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday -Friday: 10—1, 2—5

TODAY **March 29, 2026 — Palm Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Fellowship & Education for all ages
6:00 p.m. Sunday S'mores

Monday **March 30**
Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday **March 31**

Wednesday **April 1**

9:00 a.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday **April 2 — Maundy Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting (Meeting Room adjacent to FH)

Friday **April 3 — Good Friday**

12:30 p.m. Bulletin Production
1:00-3:00 p Easter Flowers to be delivered
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship

Saturday **April 4**

7:30 a.m. Men of Grace (Bob Evans)

UPCOMING WEEK SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun. 4/5—Easter Breakfast Carry-In, Easter Worship with Holy Communion

Mon. 4/6—Pastor Off

Tues. 4/7

Wed. 4/8—Bible Study, Confirmation, choir

Thurs. 4/9—Council Meeting, AA Meeting

Fri. 4/10—

Sat. 4/11—

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild for March: Patty & Tom Barnes
Altar Guild for April: Carol Matevia & Karen Schaeff
Offering Counter for March: 3/25 & 3/29—Patty Barnes
Offering Counter for April: Carol Perry

Sunday, March 29—Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m.

Greeter: Carol Perry & Nelson Hardin
Usher: Darryl Leyes
Lector: Patty Barnes
Communion: Kelly Coffman, Jane Coggin
Acolyte: Sofia Steiner

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:00 p.m.

Greeter/Usher: John & Janice Barnes
Lector: John Barnes
Communion: Janice Barnes, Mike Schamel
Acolyte: Jessa Barnes

Good Friday, April 3

7:00 p.m.

Greeter/Usher: Rex & Kelly Mt. Castle
Lector: Mary Shetter
Acolyte: Sophia Steiner

Attendance & Stewardship — (\$4,187 needed wkly)

03.22.26	9:30 a.m.	101	\$13,030.48	
03.25.26	7:00 p.m.	43	\$ 275.00	Samaritan's Purse

Great Commission Outreach Partners:

World Mission Prayer League—Chris & Emily and family, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families, Abundant Grace, West Chester

Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund: The purpose of this fund is to extend the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, apart from the general operation of the congregation. To learn more about our Mission Endowment Fund, please contact the church office and we'll give your question to the appropriate person.

IN OUR PRAYERS

After 4 weeks we will remove names from this list. If you would like to keep someone on the list, please note their name on the back of the “Attendance & Communion Registration” form.

URGENT PRAYER LIST:

HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)

Jim Carlisle: (Healing from hip surgery)

Claude Dixon: (Suzie Dell’s Dad– Hospitalized with double pneumonia)

Randy Foust: (Janice Pearce’s son-in-law—Recovering from back surgery)

Barb Goebel: (She is at Maple Gardens—in Eaton, for rehab)

Michael Good: (As he prepares for surgery)

Amy & Bryan Jackson: (for comfort and healing)

Tech Sergeant Carter Lee: (special friend of the Franklin/Childers families. Carter is stationed at Al Dhafra Air Force Base in the UAE. We pray for his safety, strength, and protection during his service, and for peace and comfort for his loved ones while he is away.

Bernard Lehman: (Brother of Janice Pearce (no rel. to Dick) Healing of Pneumonia

Richard Lehman: (He is healing at home)

Becky Lenk: (Recovering from hand surgery)

SSG, Brandon Mann: (Nephew of Rex Mt. Castle—He is now stationed in Kuwait with the 1487th Transportation Unit)

Barb Orr: (Friend of Debbie McKinney —Dealing with multiple cancers)

Gordon Self: (Kelly Coffman’s father—recovering from surgery)

Justin Shetter: (Dean & Mary’s son—He is an Air Force reservist called back into duty)

Jackie Steiner: (Seeing a new Huntington’s Disease doctor)

Mark & Jary Tannehill: (Carol Matevia’s friends—Mark is sched. for leg amputation due to infection.

George & Barb Suggs: (Dealing with health issues)

Wayne Williams

Linda Woesner: (Scheduled for an MRI on March 31)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LISTSally Mowell, Connie Martin, Maggie Risko, Rhonda Paige Atkinson, Amy Jackson, Andy Proeschel, Judy Newkirk, Mike & Judy Schamel, Suzan Pauley, Barb Goebel, Carmen Hasdorff, Tom Schamel, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Susan Root, Fran Kester, Teddi & Mike Watkins, Ruth Hardin, Jenifer Combs, Doug Davis, Pastor Dean & Sandy Haferman, Dave Brumbaugh, Scot Emig, Barbara Worley, Carolyn MacFadyen, Judy Jay, Will Suggs, Earl House, Barbara Lakes, Becky Hoskins, Kayli Johnson, Joe McHenry, Tom Barnes: and those serving in the military: Maj. Love Hartman; Capt. John Ketteman; SPC Brandon Mann; Brad Newkirk; Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Alex Pollitt, Airman, U.S. Air Force.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY:

Fellowship & Education

Following Worship—Refreshments for all are served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on Sundays.

- **Youth Sunday School classes** meet @ **10:30 a.m.** — in the Sunday School music room (Education wing) and start with songs and prayer, then go to the adjacent classroom for our lesson. Bring a friend! Parents are always welcome.
- **Adult Education**— Following 9:30 a.m. worship, the adults meet to discuss the lessons of the day unless there is a theme. Beginning April 12th they begin a new, 5-week series and is scheduled to end May 10th. It is entitled **GOD HEARD THEIR CRY—Finding freedom in the midst of life’s trials.** A Ray Vander Laan series from “Focus on the Family”. We hope you will join us for these very interesting sessions. Coffee and snacks provided.
- **Every other Sunday— Sunday S’mores @ 6:00 p.m.** —a Middle School- & High School-aged Youth Sunday Evening Ministry. Friends are welcome. Tina Ebright is the moderator and she can be reached at 937-472-5663.

Adult Bible Studies (during the week)

- **The 2nd Monday of each Month — 7:00 p.m.—The Phoebe Women’s Bible Study.** They are beginning a new study— **Discerning the Voice of God** by Priscilla Shirer. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com).
- **The 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the Month:**
 - * **6:00 p.m. — Wine & The Word** — this group shares a light meal (at the home of Carol Perry). They are studying **Acts—Part 1**. If you would like to join them, please contact Carol at 937-456-6683 or cbperry122@embarqmail.com
 - * **7:00 p.m. — Lakeside Fellowship is held** at the Lakengren home of Dan & Karen Schultz. If you would like to join this group, please contact Karen/Dan at 419-890-7965 or dkschultz52@yahoo.com.
- **The 2nd Tues. of each month — 5:30 p.m. — FOR MOMS . . .** They are studying a 6-session Bible Study for MOMS — **Mom Set Free by: Jeannie Cunnion.**
- **The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study — 9:00 a.m.** — meets in the Meeting Room off of the Fellowship Hall. They are studying the ***minor prophets.***
- **The 3rd Thursday of each month — 2:00-4:00 p.m. — “Graceful Fiber Guild”** — meets in the Fellowship Hall or the adjacent meeting room. Bring a craft you’ve been working on or just come to learn a new craft. Everyone is welcome to join us! Our next meeting is ***Thurs., Apr. 16th.***

These studies are open to any member and our friends. No prior Bible study background is needed. Please bring your Bible.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 29, 2026

⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

- *Philippians 2:8-11* -

Hosannah! Hosannah! The crowd cried out as Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. The word *hosannah* combines the Hebrew word for “to save” with the Hebrew word for “please” or “now,” creating a powerful and urgent request. The Jews gathering for the Passover in Jerusalem cry out to Jesus, “Please save us! Save us now!” They shouted *hosannah* as a political acclamation, seeking deliverance from Roman rule. They didn’t understand what kind of Savior Jesus is.

Jesus was nothing like the savior they were expecting. They expected Jesus to have some sort of large army. They expected Jesus to demand the attention, respect, and honor of his loyal subjects. And every knee would bow at the name of Jesus, but not in this way. No. Jesus arrived in this world through humble means, and he would continue his ministry and death through the same humble means. This king would take on the form of a servant, not the image the Jews were anticipating of a fighting rebel against the Romans.

Jesus came as a human being, experiencing thirst and hunger, exhaustion and pain. He came to serve others, not himself. He bent down and washed his disciples’ feet. And he remained obedient, obedient unto his death. Death is rarely glamorous, but death for many is at the very least respectful. That was not the case for the King of Kings. Jesus would be humiliated as he was flogged, whipped, and stripped naked for all to see. He would be dishonored, despised, and rejected as he was nailed to and lifted up on a cross, executed as a criminal for everyone to witness, including his own mother, who once cradled him in her arms that first night in Bethlehem.

Why did Jesus go through all of this? He could have fled the scene at any time. No one would have blamed him for going off to the wilderness to pray, only to never return to the hatred that would be there to welcome him back to Jerusalem. Jesus went through the unthinkable because he knew it was the only way to defeat the devil, overcome death, and win the final victory for you. He did all of this because he loves you. We cry out *hosannah*—save us, Lord, from sin, death, and the power of the devil. And he does. He has the final victory!

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Eat and Drink

Find the 42 bold words from Matthew 26:20-29 (ESV)

F L X E X G O B D D H B W E T G
R O G R V N N I R O A A H N I
E T R F E A S I R R E T N I A B
T A V G A C G N S I A N D N B
T B W R I T T E N S E D I E A
E L D P S V H G K V E Q S V R
B E L U O Q E E I S L H O Y
E E G C R M A N R D N A B C D
S T Y A R T E B E K E G D H O
B W D P O U R E D S N P D U B
R E O V W N O S K C S I P O J
O L O I F D E N I L C E R I M
K V L N U S A J E S U S W D D
E E B E L H N E V I G K O O T
F R U I T Y L U R T S I N S E

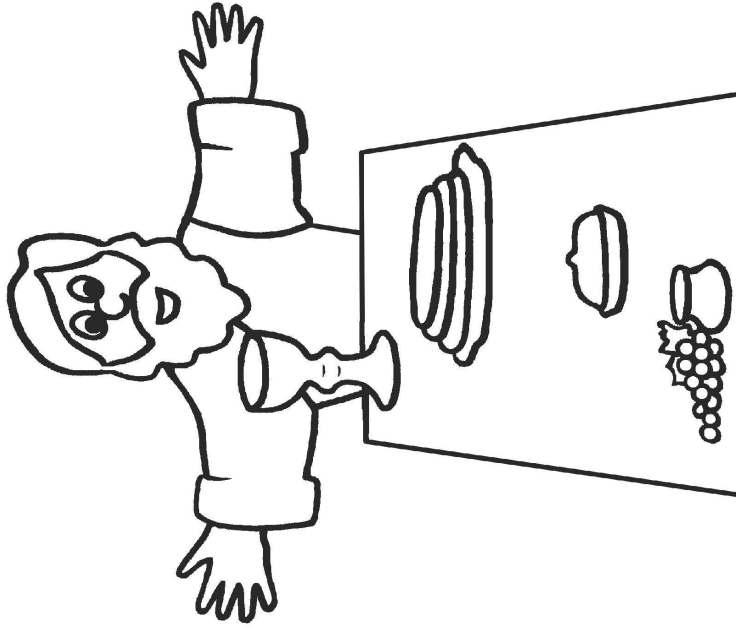
When it was **evening**, he **reclined at table** with the **twelve**. And as they were **eating**, he said, "**Truly**, I say to you, **one** of you will **betray** me." And they were very **sorrowful** and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has **dipped** his **hand** in the **dish** with me will betray me. 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**." **Judas**, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, **Rabbi**?" He said to him, "You have said so." Now as they were eating, **Jesus** **took bread**, and after **blessing** it, **broke** it and **gave** it to the **disciples**, and said, "Take, **eat**; this is my **body**." And he took a **cup**, and when he had **given thanks** he gave it to them, saying, "**Drink** of 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 not drink again of this **fruit of the vine** until that day when I drink it new with you in my **Father's kingdom**."

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Today's Gospel Lesson

Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026



At the Last Supper, Jesus blessed bread and wine and gave it to his friends.

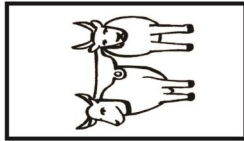
Children's Worship Pages

On Palm Sunday, a crowd waved palm branches as Jesus walked by. What did the people shout as they waved their palms?

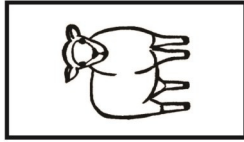
To find out, write the beginning letter of each picture on the numbered lines below! (Hint: Check John 12:13)



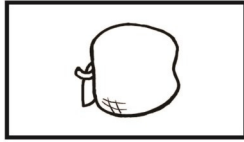
1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Palm Sunday marked the beginning of a journey that only Jesus, our Savior, could take. Can you tell the story of Jesus' journey to the cross?

Finish the sentences below, using the opposite word to fill in the blanks!

1. A woman poured oil _____ Jesus' head. (off)
2. Jesus and his disciples gathered for their _____ supper together. (first)
3. The disciples were _____ while Jesus prayed in the garden. (awake)
4. Soldiers _____ to the garden to arrest Jesus. (went)
5. Jesus was sentenced to _____ on the cross. (life)
6. The soldiers were _____ to Jesus and beat him. (nice)
7. Jesus _____ while hanging on the cross. (lived)
8. After his death, Jesus' body was placed _____ a tomb. (out)

