

# Grace Lutheran Church

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## **Palm/Passion Sunday**

March 29th, 2026

+ Ministers: The People of Grace +

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+ Director of Children & Youth Choirs Angela Lippard +

+ Accompanist for Children & Youth Teresa Yost +

+ Accompanist for Chancel Choir Becky Lippard +

+ Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene C. Bost +

## + GATHERING

*Those who are able to gather outside in front of the Sanctuary are welcome to do so. Those who are unable to process are invited to remain in the sanctuary, where they can hear the service outside. The service will continue inside during the Processional Hymn.*

## +INVOCATION

We gather in the name of God, who created us, who was born to be with us, who guides us still.  
**Amen.**

## + PROCESSION WITH PALMS

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Hosanna in the highest!**

## + PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>28</sup> After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> They said, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## + BLESSING OF THE PALMS

God of all, bless these palms and those who carry them. As you join us in the joys of our lives, we join this joyful procession. As you join us in pain and heartache, we join the procession to the cross. These palms are signs of pain and promise, and you reside in both. God of all, bless these palms and those who carry them.

**Amen.**

*A Procession Forms, entering the sanctuary jubilantly! Wave your palms and celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as we sing the hymn.*

+ PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

*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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ SALUTATIONS & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray together ...

**God of all, the joyful parade of this day will soon become a gruesome march to Golgotha. Yet you are in all of it: the joy and the heartache, the pain and the promise, the peace and the anguish. In this holy week, help us to walk through all of it with you, that we may experience the comfort of knowing you with us in our highs and in our lows too. Amen.**

OFFERING

ANTHEM

"Hosanna, Hosanna"

Chancel Choir

Flute Kristina Martin

+ OFFERTORY SONG "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
 that were a tribute far too small;  
 love so amazing, so divine,  
 demands my soul, my life, my all!

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together ...

**God who provides, we return to you a portion of all that you have given us. Bless and use these gifts, our hands, our hearts, our ministry, to care for the world you so love. Now prepare us to receive you at this table and again in the world beyond our doors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## HOMILY

"All In for the High's and Lows"

## CRY OF THE WHOLE CONGREGATION

*Congregation reads parts in **Bold Print**.*

Narrator It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him, for they said,

**Chief Priest Not during the festival or there may be a riot among the people.**

Narrator While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of pure nard. She broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But there were some there who said in anger,

**Disciple Why was this ointment wasted this way?**

**(Men)**

**Disciple For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii  
(Women) and the money given to the poor.**

Narrator And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

Jesus Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. You will always have the poor with you and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly, I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be remembered of her.

Narrator Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, the disciples said to Jesus,

**Disciple Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the  
(Men) Passover?**

Jesus Go into the city and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, 'Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

Narrator So the disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said to them,

Jesus Truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me; one who is eating with me.

Narrator The disciples began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

**Disciple Surely not I?**

**(Men)**

**Disciple Surely it is not I, my Lord?**

**(Women)**

Jesus It is one of the twelve, who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man will go as it is written of him, but woe to the one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one to not have been born.

### **+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

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

Jesus Take, this is my body.

Narrator Then he took a cup and after giving thanks, he gave it to them and all of them drank from it. The he said to them,

Jesus This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I tell you, I will never drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I will drink it anew in the Kingdom of God.

### **+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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**

We have to praise you, we have to thank you, God, because the whole universe is filled with your wonders. On this very day you overcome the powers of death and destruction forever, and all of creation sings its thankful praise.

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ LORD'S PRAYER

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

+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**LAMB OF GOD**



**DISTRIBUTION** – All baptized children are welcome at the table for communion. Come forward in two lines to receive the bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from a communion assistant.

*When all have communed, we continue our journey.*

Narrator When they had sung hymns, they went out to the Mount of Olives and Jesus said to them,

Jesus You will all become deserters, for it is written ‘I will strike the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

Narrator But Peter said to him,

Peter Even though all will become deserters, I will not.

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

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

Narrator And all of them said the same.

**HYMN**

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?*

*Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.*

*'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee.*

*I crucified thee.*

Narrator Then they went to a place called Gethsemane and he said to the disciples,

Jesus Sit here while I pray.

Narrator And he took with him Peter, James and John and he began to be distressed and agitated. He said to them,

Jesus I am deeply grieved, even to death. Remain here and keep awake.

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

Jesus Abba, Father, for you all things are possible. Remove this cup from me, yet not as I want but what you want.

Narrator And he went back to where Peter, James and John were and found them sleeping.

Jesus Simon, are you asleep? Keep awake and pray that you many not come into this time of trial, for the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.

Narrator Again he went away and prayed, saying the same words, and once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy. They did not know what to say to him. He went away a third time and upon returning, he said,

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

**HYMN**

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

*Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempters power,*

*Your Redeemer's conflict see, Watch with him one bitter hour.*

*Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we sit in the Garden with our Lord, waiting for the betrayer to come, let us keep alert and pray with Jesus. Let us pray for the whole world, the church, and all people in need and as we pray, we trust that God hears our prayers.

Abba, Father, we pray to you.

**God, hear our prayer.**

Abba, Father, we lift all these prayers to you and we pray that your will be done in all things. Accompany us on our journey with Jesus to the Cross and remind us always of your never-ending presence and unconditional love. We pray all this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## REFLECTION HYMN

## “Stay with Me”

(Soloist 1st time, Congregation 3 times)

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and  
 pray. Watch and pray.

Narrator While he was speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived and with him was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes and the elders. The betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas The one I will kiss is the man. Arrest him and lead him away under guard.

Narrator As Jesus approached the group, Judas went up to him.

Judas Rabbi!

Narrator And he kissed him and the guards laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the slave of the High Priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching and you did not arrest me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.

Narrator And all the disciples deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following Jesus, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. The guards caught him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked. The guards took Jesus to the High Priest and all the chief priests, the elders and the scribes assembled. Peter had followed at a distance, right into the courtyard of the High Priest and he was sitting with the guards warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death. But they found none. Many gave false testimony against him and their testimonies did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him saying,

**Council We heard him say, ‘I will destroy the temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with human hands.’**

Narrator But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the High Priest stood before the assembled group and asked Jesus,

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

Narrator Jesus was silent. Again the High Priest asked him,

High Priest Are you the Messiah, the Son of Blessed One?

Jesus I am. You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with clouds of heaven.

High Priest Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard this blasphemy! What is your decision?

Narrator And all of them condemned him to death. Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him and began to strike him, saying,

**Council Prophecy! Prophecy!**

Narrator The guards took him away and beat him. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the High Priest came by and when she saw Peter warming himself by the fire, she stared at him.

**Servant (Women) You were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth weren't you?**

Peter I do not know or understand what you are talking about!

Narrator As Peter was walking out into the forecourt, the cock crowed. The servant girl, on seeing Peter again, began telling those around her,

**Servant (Women) This man is one of them!**

Narrator Again, Peter denied it. This time, one of the bystanders said to Peter,

**Bystander Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.**

Peter I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT!

Narrator At that moment, the cock crowed for a second time and Peter remembered that Jesus had told him 'before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times' and Peter broke down and wept.

**HYMN** *Go to Dark Gethsemane*  
*Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;*  
*Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!*  
*Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.*

Narrator As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders, scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, who asked him,

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus You say so.

Narrator The chief priests continued to accuse Jesus of many things. Again, Pilate asked him,

Pilate Have you no answer? Look at the many charges that have been brought against you!

Narrator But Jesus made no further reply and Pilate was amazed, Now at the festival, he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner for them; anyone whom they asked. There was a man named Barabbas who was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. The crowd came and asked Pilate to do for them as was his custom.

Pilate Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

Narrator For Pilate realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed over Jesus. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas for them instead.

Pilate Then what would you have me do with this man you call the King of the Jews?

**Crowd Crucify him! Crucify him!**

Pilate But why? What evil has he done?

Narrator But the crowd shouted all the more.

**Crowd Crucify him! Crucify him!**

Narrator So, Pilate did as the crowd wished. He released Barabbas and then after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus out in the courtyard of the palace (that is the governors' headquarters) and they called together the whole cohort. They stripped him of his clothes and put a purple cloak on him. They twisted some thorns into a crown, which they put on his head and they began to salute him.

**Crowd Hail King of the Jews**

Narrator They struck Jesus in the head with a reed, spat on him and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes back on him and then they led him away to be crucified. While in route, they compelled a passer-by that was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. It was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). They offered him wine mixed with myrrh but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his clothes among themselves, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read "King of the Jews". And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him.

**Crowd Ah! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days. Save yourself! Come down from the cross.**

Narrator In the same way the chief priests and the scribes also mocked him.

**Chief Priests He saved others and yet he cannot save himself**

**(Men)**

**Scribes Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that**

**(Women) we may see and believe.**

Narrator Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock, Jesus cried,  
Jesus Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?  
Narrator Which means, 'My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard him, they said,

**Bystanders Listen, he is calling to Elijah.**

Narrator And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick and gave it to Jesus saying,

**Bystander Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.**

Narrator Then Jesus gave a loud cry and took his last breath. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion, who stood facing Jesus saw how he breathed his last breath, he said,

Centurion Truly this man was God's Son

**HYMN**

*Were You There*

**Were you there, when they crucified, my Lord?  
Were you there, when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

Narrator There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them was Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. They used to follow Jesus and provide for him when he was in Galilee; and there were other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When the evening came, Joseph of Arimathea went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate, wondering if Jesus was already dead, summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus was dead. When Pilate learned that Jesus was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Joseph bought a linen cloth and taking the body, wrapped it and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother James saw where the body was laid.

**HYMN**

*Were You There*

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb.**

*Silence for Reflection*

## CLOSING PRAYER

On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus received our cheers. On the hill called Golgotha, Jesus bore our silence. In shouts of “Hosanna” and in cries of “Crucify,” God was all in.

On the cross, Jesus entered our sorrow, carried our guilt, and held nothing back. God did not avoid our grief or rush past our pain. God stepped fully into the highest praise and the deepest suffering, so that no part of our lives would be beyond love.

As we walk through this Holy Week, teach us to be honest about our highs and our lows. Keep us from pretending joy when we are hurting. Keep us from despair when hope feels fragile. Help us trust that you are present in it all.

Let us pray together...

Faithful God,

**do not turn your face from us when we shout with joy or when we weep in sorrow. Jesus, you rode in with courage and walked to the cross with love. Be near to those who suffer and lift those who are brought low. Steady us when we are overwhelmed. Gather the palms we wave and the burdens we carry. Humble us in our pride and lift us in our despair. Forgive us when we avoid the hard places and teach us to mourn with honesty and to rejoice with freedom. Take even our death into your own, so that in dying with Christ, we may live with Christ. Hold our sorrow and our joy together until all things are made new. Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

LBW#117

+ SENDING AND BLESSING

You came in celebration. You leave in solemnity. But still you carry the promise of God’s love burning deep in your hearts. As you leave this place, know that God journeys with you.

Receive this blessing:

As you have met God in this place, go now to meet God beyond this place. As you have received the love of Jesus, go now to give the love of Jesus. As the Creator has been all in for you, go now and be all in for the sake of the world. Gracious God, Parent, Sibling, and Spirit, bless you as you go. **Amen.**

**Amen**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE