

March 29, 2026

10:15 AM

Palm/Passion Sunday

Communion

Theme: The good news is...inspiring us to act.

Intro Paragraph for bulletin:

Roman triumph usually occurred during Passover week as a show of Rome's might. The governor would have been surrounded by the wealthiest and most powerful citizens. In contrast, Jesus' march is for the people—all the people: the hungry, the poor, the afraid. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowd responds to Jesus' authenticity and humility. Perhaps they can see through the pageantry of the Roman parade; in contrast, the goodness of Jesus' leadership shines through, mobilizing the crowds to take action by throwing cloaks in the street and waving palm branches in the air. The energy is infectious, a climax moment in the grassroots movement of Jesus' ministry. This week's sub-theme intentionally places us in the crowd, inviting us to shout "Hosanna," to throw our coats down, and to wave branches. What will the good news inspire us to do? How will the gospel move us? As we head into Holy Week, how will we put Jesus' teachings into practice?

Worship begins outside in the circle, weather permitting, with palms. Begin with brief announcement explaining worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Will you follow?

Will you lay down your coat?

Will you lay down something important?

Will you shout "Hosanna"?

Will you join the parade?

Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse?

Will you wave a palm branch in the air?

Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?

Will you let this good news inspire you to act?

We will. We will sing. We will pay close attention.

We will worship. We will follow.

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

Hosanna in the highest

PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

At the beginning of the reading:

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN All Glory Laud and Honor

Refrain

1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er, King;
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

2. Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,

Repeat refrain

Who in the Lord's Name com - est, The King and Bless - ed One!

3 The people of the Hebrews
With palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before thee we present. *Refrain.*

Process into sanctuary waving palm branches as we sing the hymn.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The very first Palm Sunday was a day of action... Let us pray:

Jesus of Nazareth, we know that you spent your days teaching and healing. You marched through the streets and walked on water. You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables. Your good news was not confined to conversation. It was not confined to the Temple. Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world. Holy God, we long for a faith like that. Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon. Inspire us to love as you loved. Inspire us to act. With hope for tomorrow we pray. Amen.

Church family, whether or not you wave your palm branch, whether or not you live out your faith, whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions, God will never stop loving you. Jesus will never stop marching for you. The Spirit will never stop listening to you. **We are claimed, loved, and held in grace. What good, good news. Amen!**

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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

HYMN: The Palms

O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
are strewn this day in festal preparation;
where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away.
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.

Join all and sing, His name declare.
Let every voice resound with acclamation.
Hosanna, Praise to the Lord.
Blessed is He who comes bringing salvation.

His word goes forth, and people by its might,
once more regain freedom from degradation.
Humanity doth give to each his right,
while those in darkness are restored to light.

Join all and sing, His name declare.
Let every voice resound with acclamation.
Hosanna, Praise to the Lord.
Blessed is He who comes bringing salvation.

Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
of all thy sons sing the emancipation.
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem
brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.

Join all and sing, His name declare.
Let every voice resound with acclamation.
Hosanna, Praise to the Lord.
Blessed is He who comes bringing salvation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter...through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Plot to Kill Jesus & the Anointing at Bethany Matthew 26:1-13

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Lament - Krug
Handbell Choir

OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus Matthew 26:14-16

**The Passover with the Disciples and the Institution of the Lord's Supper
Matthew 26:17-30**

HYMN ELW 359 Where Charity and Love Prevail vs. 1-3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

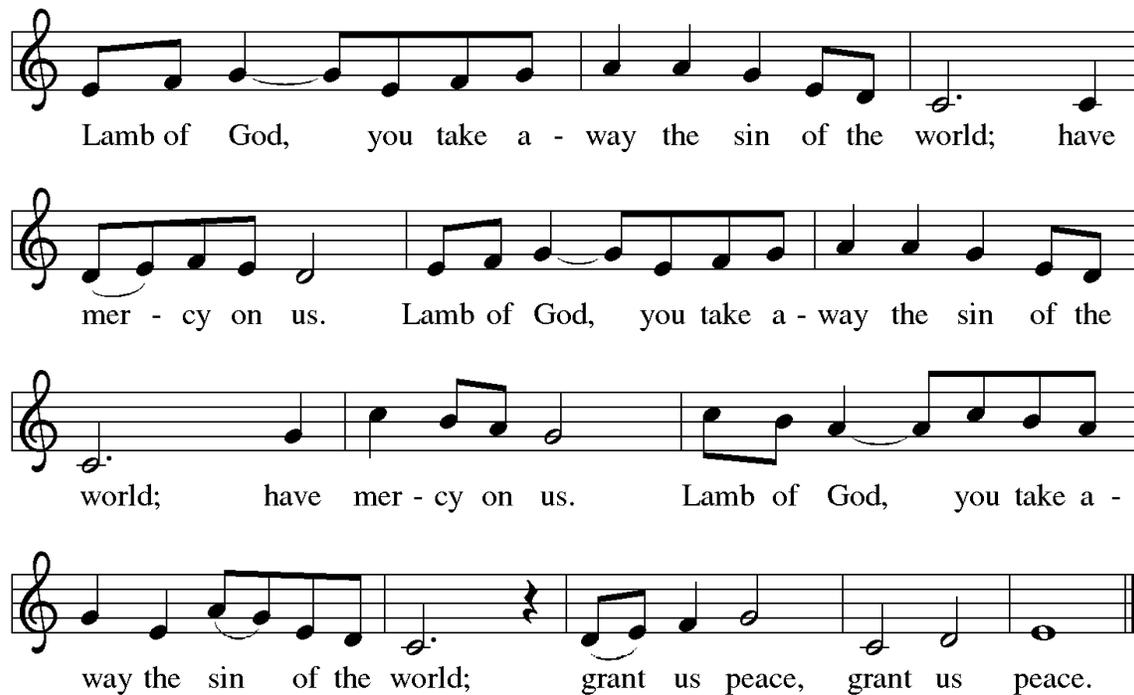
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table! Following the invitation, please come forward to receive communion. Come down the center aisle in two lines, receiving the bread in your open palm and taking a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice from the tray. After you have received communion, you can place your used cup in the bowls at the end of the first pew. Children who do not yet receive are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Before and after you receive, you are invited to join in singing the communion hymn below.

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of good news, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Peter's Denial Foretold **Matthew 26:31-35**

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane **Matthew 26:36-46**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus **Matthew 26:47-56**

Jesus before the High Priest **Matthew 26:57-68**

Narrator: Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house 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,

Town person: 'This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days." '

Narrator: The high priest stood up and said,

Chief Priest: 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?'

Narrator: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

Chief Priest: 'I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.'

Narrator: 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.'

Narrator: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

Chief Priest: 'He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?'

Narrator: They answered,

Crowd: 'He deserves death.'

Narrator: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

Crowd: 'Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?'

Peter's Denial of Jesus Mathew 26:69-75

APOSTLES CREED

Jesus Brought before Pilate Matthew 27:1-2
The Suicide of Judas Matthew 27:3-10

Pilate Questions Jesus Matthew 27:11-14

Barabbas or Jesus? Matthew 27:15-23

Narrator: 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,

Pilate: 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?'

Narrator: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him,

Wife: 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.'

Narrator: 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,

Pilate: 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?'

Narrator: And they said,

Crowd: 'Barabbas.'

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?'

Narrator: All of them said,

Crowd: 'Let him be crucified!'

Narrator: Then he asked,

Pilate: 'Why, what evil has he done?'

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

Crowd: 'Let him be crucified!'

Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified Matthew 27:24-26

Narrator: 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,

Pilate: 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.'

Narrator: Then the people as a whole answered,

Crowd: 'His blood be on us and on our children!'

Narrator: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus Matthew 27:27-31

HYMN ELW 351 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded vs. 1-2

The Crucifixion of Jesus Matthew 27:32-37

HYMN ELW 353 Were You There vs. 1-2

The Crucifixion of Jesus Matthew 27:38-46

Narrator: Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Crowd: ‘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.’

Narrator: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

Chief Priest: ‘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.” ’

Narrator: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

HYMN ELW 349 Ah, Holy Jesus vs. 1-2

The Death of Jesus Matthew 27:45-56

Narrator: 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?’

Narrator: that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Crowd: ‘This man is calling for Elijah.’

Narrator: 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,

Wife: ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.’

Narrator: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. 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. 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,

Solider: ‘Truly this man was God’s Son!’

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

HYMN ELW 349 Ah, Holy Jesus vs. 3-4

The Burial of Jesus Matthew 27:57-61

The Guard at the Tomb Matthew 27:62- 66

HYMN ELW 803 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

INVITATION TO HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the week in which we as Christians give ourselves most fully and completely to worship... Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
bless you now and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

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We celebrate our members receiving their first communion this Sunday:

Julia Keller, Chalmer Mitcham, Coulson Schanely,
Brian Texter, Samantha Texter

Readers participating in the passion reading: Dean Heller, Kevin Schanely, Lisa Cooney, Sarah Toback, Paul Barndt, Joyce Foesig, Erika Haldeman, Laura Cooney, Andrea Swavely and Coulson Schanely

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Leonard Gibeon, David Mounts, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Richard Ditzler, Joy Miller, Alyson Harvey, Audrey Sell, Marie Wolfe, Erik Ockenlaender, Mary Eberle, Brandon Blanchard, Gladys Kazalonis, Elizabeth Brossett and family, Paige Seasock, Tanner Antalosky, Will Morgan, Richard Mitchell, David Wargo, Kate Umstead, Barry Long, Jim Martin, Mike Wolf, David Tregae and Bob Schanely.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 30	5:30 Lenten Soup and Study
Thursday, April 2	7pm Great Songs of Faith Choir rehearsal
Friday, April 3	6pm Dinner & Worship w/stripping of the Altar
	12pm Worship at New Goshenhoppen
	7pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship at St. Mark's, Pennsburg
Saturday, April 4	10am Eggstravaganza
	7pm Easter Vigil at New Goshenhoppen
Sunday, April 5	6:30am Sunrise Worship at Friedens Cemetery
	Pancake breakfast at Friedens UCC
	no Sunday School
	10:15 Festival Worship

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 29
Sunday School at 9 AM
Worship 10:15 AM - beginning outdoor in the circle
Soup, Salad and Egg Stuffing Celebration after worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 2
Dinner church in Fellowship Hall at 6 PM
Concluding in the sanctuary with altar stripping

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 3
12 Noon worship at New Goshenhoppen UCC
followed by cross walk
7 PM Service of Tenebrae at St. Mark's, Pennsburg

EASTER VIGIL - APRIL 4
7 PM worship at New Goshenhoppen UCC

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5
6:30 AM Sunrise Service in Friedens Union Cemetery
Pancake breakfast to follow at Friedens Fellowship Hall
10:15 AM Festival Worship at St. John's