



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

Prelude:

The Holy City
The Palms

Stephen Adams
Gabriel Faure

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns
Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

P: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,

C: **that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners
of whom I am the foremost. Amen.**

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: 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 disdainning 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.

***Opening Hymn:**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

***Blessing of Palms**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

P: We praise you, O God,
for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Today he entered the holy city in triumph
and was proclaimed messiah and king
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.
Bless these branches and those who carry them.
Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,
so that, joined to his death and resurrection,
we enter into life with you;
through the same Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

***Proclamation Gospel:**

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

P: ¹ 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.”

***Greeting**

P: As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

***Prayer of the Day**

C: Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

R: A reading from Isaiah, the 50th chapter.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like 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 are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 31:9-16

R: ⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are
consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a
dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they
avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who
persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

R: A reading from Philippians, the second chapter.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: **Matthew 26:14—27:66**

In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

Narrator: One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

CONGREGATION: “**What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?**”

Narrator: They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said,

CONGREGATION: “**Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?**”

Narrator: He said,

Jesus: “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.””

Narrator: The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered and prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said,

Jesus: “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

Narrator: Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another,

CONGREGATION: “Surely it is not I, Lord?”

Narrator: He said in reply,

Jesus: “He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.”

Narrator: Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply,

CONGREGATION: “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?”

Narrator: He answered,

Jesus: “You have said so.”

Narrator: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said,

Jesus: “Take and eat; this is my body.”

Narrator: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father.”

Narrator: Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: “This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: *I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed, but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee.*”

Narrator: Peter said to him in reply,

CONGREGATION: “**Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be.**”

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

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

Narrator: Peter said to him,

CONGREGATION: “**Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you.**”

Narrator: And all the disciples spoke likewise. Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

Jesus: “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

Narrator: He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them,

Jesus: “My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.”

Narrator: He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying,

Jesus: “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.”

Narrator: When he returned to his disciples, he found them asleep. He said to them,

Jesus: “So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Narrator: Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again,

Jesus: “My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!”

Narrator: Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them,

Jesus: “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

Narrator: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying,

CONGREGATION: “**The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him.**”

Narrator: Immediately Judas went over to Jesus and said,

CONGREGATION: “**Hail, Rabbi!**”

Narrator: and he kissed him. Jesus answered him,

Jesus: “Friend, do what you have come for.”

Narrator: Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

Jesus: “Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?”

Narrator: At that hour Jesus said to the crowd,

Jesus: “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me? Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me. But all this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled.”

Narrator: Then all the disciples left him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter was following him at a distance as far as the high priest's courtyard and going inside he sat down with the servants to see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward who stated,

CONGREGATION: **“This man said, ‘I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.’”**

Narrator: The high priest rose and addressed him,

High Priest: “Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?”

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

High Priest: “I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Narrator: Jesus said to him in reply,

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 the Power’ and ‘coming on the clouds of heaven.’”

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

High Priest: “He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?”

Narrator: They said in reply,

CONGREGATION: **“He deserves to die!”**

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

CONGREGATION: **“Prophecy for us, Christ: who is it that struck you?”**

Narrator: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the female servants came over to him and said,

Servant 1: “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.”

Narrator: But he denied it in front of everyone, saying,

CONGREGATION: “**I do not know what you are talking about!**”

Narrator: As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there,

Servant 2: “This man was with Jesus the Nazorean.”

Narrator: Again, he denied it with an oath,

CONGREGATION: “**I do not know the man!**”

Narrator: A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter,

Bystanders: “Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away.”

Narrator: At that he began to curse and to swear,

CONGREGATION: “**I do not know the man.**”

Narrator: And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: “Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.” He went out and began to weep bitterly. When it was morning, the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying,

CONGREGATION: “**I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.**”

Narrator: They said,

Chief priests: “What is that to us? Look to it yourself.”

Narrator: Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said,

Chief priests: “It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood.”

Narrator: After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, *"And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me."* Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned him,

Pilate: "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: "You say so."

Narrator: And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?"

Narrator: But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time, they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So, when they had assembled, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: "Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?"

Narrator: For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over. While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him." The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply,

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

Narrator: They answered,

CONGREGATION: "Barabbas!"

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?"

Narrator: They all shouted,

CONGREGATION: “Crucify him!”

Narrator: But he said,

Pilate: “Why? What evil has he done?”

Narrator: They only shouted louder,

CONGREGATION: “Crucify him!”

Narrator: When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying,

Pilate: “I am innocent of this man’s blood. Look to it yourselves.”

Narrator: And the whole people said in reply,

CONGREGATION: “His blood be upon us and upon our children.”

Narrator: Then he released Barabbas to them, after which he handed Jesus over to be scourged, and crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and put a scarlet cloak on him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

CONGREGATION: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Narrator: They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry Jesus’ cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of the Skull, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,

CONGREGATION: “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!”

Narrator: Likewise, the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said,

CONGREGATION: “He saved others; he cannot save himself. So, he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

Narrator: The rebels who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way. From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

Jesus: “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*”

Narrator: which means,

Jesus: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Narrator: Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

CONGREGATION: “He is calling for Elijah.”

Narrator: Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said,

CONGREGATION: “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.”

Narrator: But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice and gave up his spirit.

And the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the

bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And

coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered

the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men

with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when

they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said,

CONGREGATION: “Truly, this was the Son of God!”

Narrator: There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who 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. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb. The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

CONGREGATION: “Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, ‘After three days I will be raised up.’ Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead.’ This last deception would be worse than the first.”

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: “The guard is yours; go, secure it as best you can.”

Narrator: So, they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

***Hymn of the Day:**

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!



- 1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es-ty! Hear all the tribes ho - san - na cry;
- 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es-ty! In low - ly pomp ride on to die.
- 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es-ty! The wing-ed squad-rons of the sky
- 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es-ty! Your last and fierc - est strife is nigh.
- 5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es-ty! In low - ly pomp ride on to die,



O Sav - ior meek, your road pur - sue, with palms and scat-tered gar-ments strewed.
 O Christ, your tri-umphs now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con-quer'd sin.
 look down with sad and won-d'ring eyes to see the ap-proach-ing sac - ri - fice.
 The Fa - ther on his sap-phire throne a - waits his own a - noint - ed Son.
 bow your meek head to mor - tal pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

***Apostles' Creed**

**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.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

R: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

R: O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for 10 seconds for people to be named)*. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(10:30) Sr. Choir: *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* L. Smith

Offertory: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Offering Prayer

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.

You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

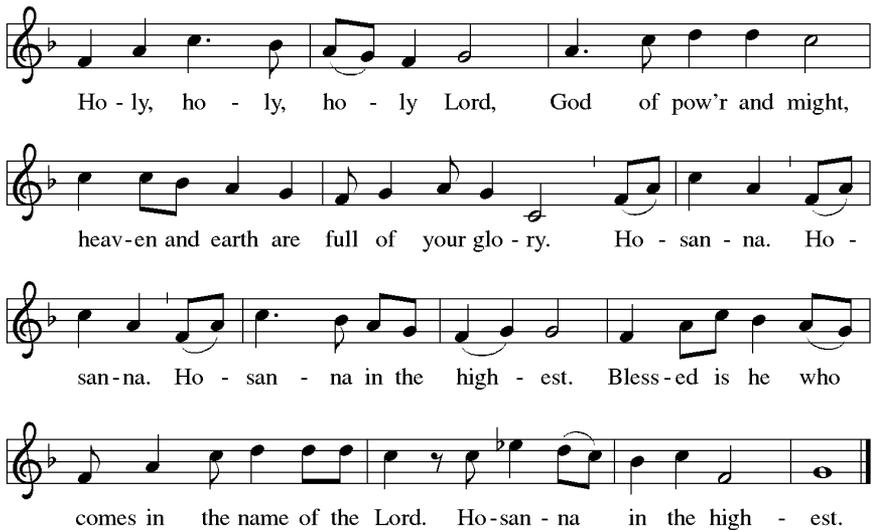
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting,
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

P: Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

P: With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Lord's Prayer

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

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.**

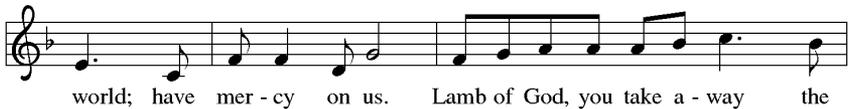
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten- free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let Pastor Tim know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

ELW 343 *My Song Is Love Unknown*

ELW 339 *Christ, the Life of All the Living*

***Post Communion Blessing**

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

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: God of our salvation,
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.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

***Closing Hymn:**

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

***Postlude:**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Carlos Staszkeski

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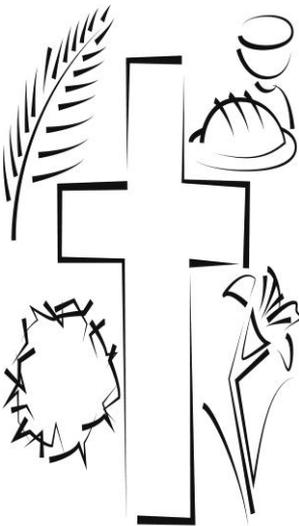
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HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST! Lord Jesus, as we remember your triumphal entry, prepare our hearts to welcome you with joy and humility. Clear away our distractions so we may follow you in both triumph and trial. May our worship today honor you, our gracious King. Amen.

The Chosen, Season 4

Join us for Season 4 of the Chosen, in Faith Lutheran's **Lounge**
Wednesdays at 5 p.m. through April 1st.

Questions should be directed to Cheryl Paeth at 419-205-3659



Holy Week

HOLY WEEK AT FAITH

*Please join us in worship as we journey from
Palm Sunday to the cross and the grave.*

Palm Sunday • March 29, 2026

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

The Passion & Celebration of Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday • April 2, 2026 7:00 pm

Worship with Celebration of Holy Communion

Good Friday • April 3, 2026 7:00 pm

Tenebrae Service

**Easter Celebration • April 5, 2026
with Celebration of Holy Communion**

Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship at 10:30 a.m.

A COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE will be held April 3, 2026 from noon to 3 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 705 W. State Street, Fremont with voices from many area churches joining in song. This service is designed for worshippers to come and go as their schedule allows.

GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY: Come to Grace Lutheran Church, 705 W. State Street, Fremont on **Friday, April 3rd**, for a Lake Erie Yellow Perch dinner including Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Roll, Dessert, and Beverage. Serving begins at 5 p.m. Dine-In or Carry-Out. **Advance Tickets only.** No Ticket Sales at the door. Cost is \$20 per person. Kid's Meal is \$5 (Hot Dog, Chips, Dessert). Purchase tickets at Grace Lutheran office located on Clover Street: Mon. -Thurs. 9-4 pm or Friday 9-1 pm. 419-332-1558. Event Sponsored by Fremont Floor Covering Outlet, LTD.



FAITH'S MISSION AND OUTREACH PROJECT FOR ATKINSON SCHOOL TESTING WEEKS

We are continuing our partnership with Atkinson Elementary this year as the students in grades 3-5 approach state testing. The testing begins the last week in March and extends through the first week of May. The Faith Mission and Outreach Committee is again asking our congregation to help by purchasing snacks for the students during those testing weeks. During the school day, many students eat their lunches earlier in the day and then require a snack later in the afternoon. Mr. Ward, the principal, said that the teachers often provide a small snack for the students to eat. Some of the snacks may include **PRETZELS, LANCE PEANUT BUTTER CRACKERS, GOLDFISH CRACKERS, FRUIT SNACKS, CHEEZ IT CRACKERS, ANIMAL CRACKERS, and GRANOLA BARS.** These treats need to be in **single prepackaged units** for sanitary reasons.

A display will be set up in the narthex of our church showing the variety of items needed. A basket for monetary donations is also available if you would like us to do the shopping. Our committee is hoping to make its first delivery of items near the middle week of March.

I hope you will prayerfully consider joining us in this endeavor to support the staff and students of Atkinson Elementary. Thank you.

In Christian Love, Randy J. Brown/ Project Coordinator

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER – St. John’s Lutheran Church, 450 N.



Rocky Ridge Rd., Oak Harbor is hosting the dinner on Sunday, April 12th, from 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. or until sold out. Cost is a Free Will Donation. You may dine-in or carry-out. Menu includes Chicken with gravy and Biscuit, Green Beans and Homemade Desserts. All proceeds will benefit The

Light Neighborhood Pantry and Luther Home of Mercy, Williston. A Thrivent Action Team will help offset expenses. Help support our neighbors, and we’ll do the dishes.



HEARTBEAT HOPE MEDICAL PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER 5K RUN/WALK FOR LIFE - We would be

honored to invite your church to join us for this year’s 5K / Walk for Life on **May 9, 2026 at 9 am.** Day of registration opens at 8 a.m. To register online go to:

<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/?e=31566>

For more information go to

www.friendsofheartbeat.org/events Every step taken and every person invited helps extend this life-saving work. Thank you for your heart for this mission and for considering how your church can be part of it. With appreciation, Micella Blymyer, Event Coordinator.

MOM 2 MOM SALE – Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 705 W. State Street, Fremont. Buy, Sell or Trade used Children’s toys and clothing. Admission is \$2.00. Concessions available on site. Sell your stuff indoors or outdoors. Outside = 2 parking spots for \$20; Indoor = 10’ x 10’ space for \$20; Table = \$5. Proceeds to benefit Noah’s Ark PreSchool & Grace Lutheran Youth. For more info contact HeatherRHawn@gmail.com



LIFT COMMUNITY BBQS – Free Food, Games, and Kid’s activities. Tuesdays at 5 p.m. June 9th – August 11th in Birchard Park. Menu includes Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Fruit, Cookies, Water and Lemonade. Support the BBQS – Mail checks to LIFT, 705 W. State Street, Fremont, OH 43420. LIFTchurches.org.

TODAY THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE RECEIVING THEIR FIRST

COMMUNION:

Parker Wasserman
Carson Wasserman
Lincoln Johnson
Oakleigh Frey
Myla Riehl
Peyton Ottney
Maxwell LaBine



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FAITH DARTBALL

TEAM! They took second place in the tournament this last Sunday.



A GRIEF GROUP WILL BE MEETING on Thursday nights starting April 9 from 7:00-8:00 in the lounge. The group will meet for 6 weeks. If you are interested in attending, please call or text Becky Fox at 419-618-6948.

PRAYING DAILY

For healing and hope: Joan Bolen, Mary Ann Diekman, Denny Fahle, Millie Fetterman, Pat Forsyth, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Laurie Krynock, Bill Leutenegger, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Betty Nielsen, Gary Overmyer,

Sharon Peña, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Bob Schneider, Janet Tressler, Minnie Weber, Linda Woessner. Mark Hausch, Al & Judi Krumnow, Jackie Mowry, Eric Paul, Laura Shields.

For the Family of: Adeline Bame

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Yehiel Curry, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

Ushers Needed



USHERS NEEDED ON SUNDAY MORNINGS – I would like to appeal to those of you interested in being ushers to please sign up on the clipboards in the coat room area. Thank you very much! Mike Fought, Deacon.

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer
Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Choir Accompanist:** Amy Wagner
Narrator: Pastor Tim Miller

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<u>Jesus:</u>	Caleb Seibert	Ken Walker, Jr.
<u>Pilate:</u>	Jim Seibert	Matthew Reiselt
<u>High Priest, 2 Servants,</u>		
<u>Bystanders, Chief Priests:</u>	Noah Seibert	Shelby Thornhill

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<u>Greeter:</u>	Brielle Weiker	Braelyn Weiker
<u>Lector:</u>	Kim Smith	Toni Cooper
<u>Acolyte:</u>	Jackson Fought	
<u>Communion:</u>	K. Smith / A. Gazdecki	G. Walker / M. Reiselt
<u>Counters:</u>	Marie Reiselt* & Scott Miarer	
<u>Fellowship Time Host:</u>		
<u>Altar Guild:</u>	Sarah Quaintance & Nicole Weiker	
<u>Ushers:</u>	(8:00) Burgoon	

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK – EASTER

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer
Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Choir Accompanist:** Amy Wagner

	<u>7:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
<u>Greeter:</u>	Lillian Harder	Evan McBride & Family
<u>Lector:</u>	Cheryl Paeth	Barb Kocsis
<u>Acolyte:</u>	Jackson Fought	Eric McBride
<u>Communion:</u>	K. Paeth / C. Paeth	R. Brown / A. Miller
<u>Counters:</u>	Becky Dymond* & Niki Wasserman	
<u>Fellowship Time Host:</u>		
<u>Altar Guild:</u>	Sarah Wilson, Annie, Allison & Lauren Gazdecki	
<u>Ushers:</u>	(7:00) Steve & Mason Harder	

GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 29, 2026

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

His Blood Be on Us

Today we begin Holy Week, a week filled with paradoxes, reversals, and ironic twists. The story moves inevitably toward death, yet it brings the promise of life. Jesus appears to be the victim, but he chooses this path, humbling himself, confident that God will exalt him in victory. Pilate embodies the full might of the Roman Empire but is powerless before the crowd's demands. The chief priests and elders, perhaps more than anyone else, should recognize the long-hoped-for Messiah, but their jealousy prevents this.

Perhaps the greatest irony in today's Passion reading is found in the crowd's exclamation, "His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matthew 27:25). These words have been misused to slander the Jewish people, claiming they bear the guilt of Christ's blood. Superficially, that is what the crowd means: Pilate refuses responsibility, so the people take it upon themselves. Theologically, though, the crowd speaks a universal truth. Far from justifying anti-Jewish scapegoating, these words apply to all humanity. Somehow we are all implicated in the death of Jesus. Our rebellion, our sin, places him on the cross.

Paradoxically, however, the crowd's words also reveal a deeper truth. The blood of Christ does not mark with condemnation; it promises forgiveness. It does not stain with guilt; it washes sin away. By accepting suffering and death at the hands of sinners, Jesus wins the victory of love. His blood be on us, indeed! Just as we all share guilt in the crucifixion of Jesus, so too are we all granted mercy by his self-giving death. United in baptism to his death and resurrection, receiving his body and blood in communion, we receive grace, freedom, and life.

In the days to come, do not look at these contradictions as puzzles to be solved. They are mysteries beyond full understanding. But as you contemplate the events of Holy Week, you will discover new depths of God's love for you. May his blood be upon us all, with mercy and salvation.