

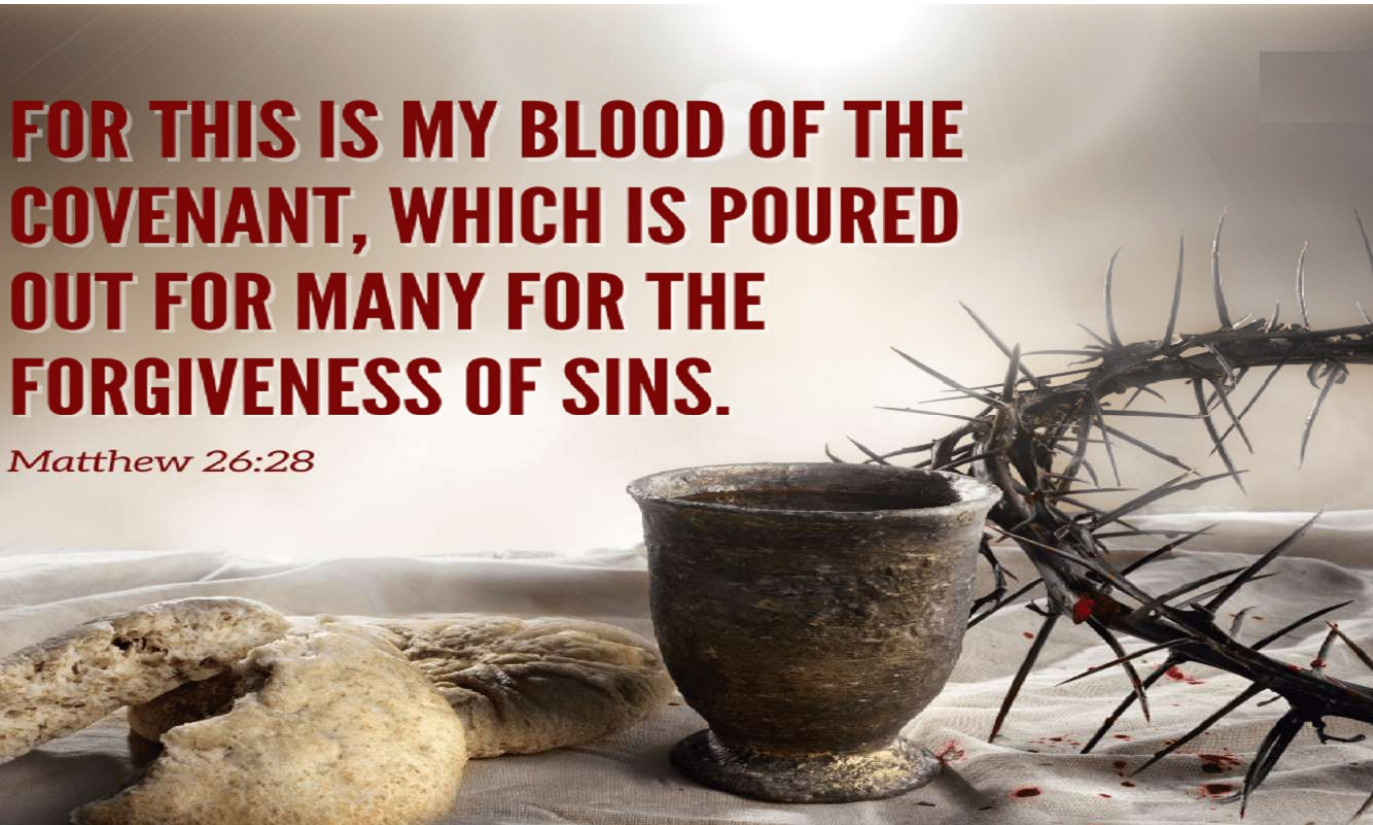


***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School  
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor***

March 29, 2026

**FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE  
COVENANT, WHICH IS POURED  
OUT FOR MANY FOR THE  
FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

*Matthew 26:28*



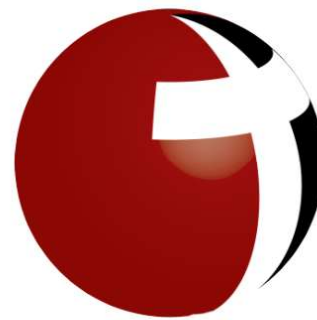
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**lcmc**  
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

WELCOME  
WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



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Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

**Brunch will resume  
April 12th**



Monday, March 30 is the deadline for ordering Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday.

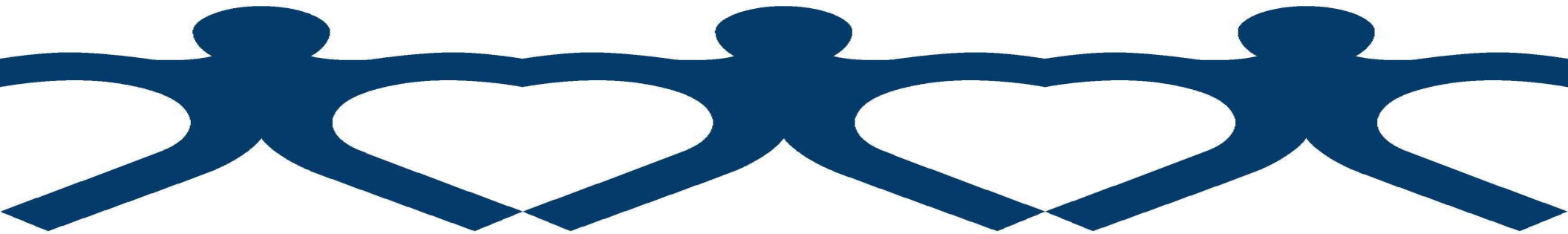
Order forms are available in the bulletin and on our website under the Announcements section.

# ALTAR *flowers*



Altar flowers are placed in loving memory of  
Gladiola Kruse.

# Community



## *Service*

St. Paul Lutheran Church will sponsor the Palm Sunday Food Drive for Shepherd's Heart today, March 29, from 4:00-5:00 P M at the St. Paul House Parking lot on the corner of Fowzer and 6th Street. Please bring donations of canned and dried goods, along with monetary donations to assist Shepherd's Heart for their Easter and summer food distributions.



***PRELUDE – Alleluia Ringers Handbell Choir***

## **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.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your  
steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and  
dishonor you: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your  
steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,  
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your  
steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for  
distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the  
world: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your  
steadfast love.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your  
steadfast love.**

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.

**Amen.**

## **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: <sup>5</sup> “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.” <sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

<sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> 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!”<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

# **BLESSING OF PALMS**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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.

**Amen.**

## **Gathering Hymn**

**“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”**

**Hymn # 344**

**[Refrain]**

**All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Hymn # 344**

**<sup>1</sup> You are the king of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name  
coming,  
our King and Blessed One.  
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 344

**[Refrain]**

**All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Hymn # 344**

**2 The company of angels  
are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals  
in chorus make reply.  
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 344

**[Refrain]**

**All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Hymn # 344**

**3 The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and  
anthems  
before you we present.  
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 344

**[Refrain]**

**All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Hymn # 344**

**4 To you, before your passion,  
they sang their hymns of  
praise.**

**To you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise.**

**[Refrain]**

**Hymn # 344**

**[Refrain]**

**All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.**

Hymn # 344

**Final** Their praises you accepted;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious King.

**[Refrain]**

Hymn # 344

**[Refrain]**

**All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Hymn # 344**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray

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.**

## **WORD**

*FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a*

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus..*

<sup>4</sup> The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, 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. <sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup> I 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.

<sup>7</sup> The 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; <sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup> It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: 31:9-16

*Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

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

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

<sup>11</sup> I 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.

<sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;**

**I am as useless as a broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup> For 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.

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

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

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

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11**

*Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.*

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***Lenten Acclamation***

***Return to the Lord, your God,  
return to the Lord, your God,  
who is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding  
in steadfast love.***

# GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to  
Matthew 26:14—27:66

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**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.*

<sup>14</sup> One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

<sup>17</sup> On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” <sup>18</sup> He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” <sup>19</sup> So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, <sup>21</sup> and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup> And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” <sup>23</sup> He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.

<sup>24</sup> The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” <sup>25</sup> Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”

<sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you,  
<sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
<sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” <sup>30</sup> When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ <sup>32</sup> “But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” <sup>35</sup> Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.”

<sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup> Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

<sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

<sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." <sup>49</sup> At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

<sup>51</sup> Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

<sup>54</sup> But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” <sup>55</sup> At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

<sup>57</sup> Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup> 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. <sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death,

<sup>60</sup> but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward  
<sup>61</sup> and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’ ”  
<sup>62</sup> The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”  
<sup>63</sup> But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

<sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, “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.”<sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death.”

<sup>67</sup> Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> saying, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.”

<sup>71</sup> When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” <sup>72</sup> Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” <sup>73</sup> After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” <sup>74</sup> Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed.

<sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

<sup>27:1</sup> When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death.  
<sup>2</sup> They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>3</sup> When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup> He said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” <sup>5</sup> Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup> But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.”

<sup>7</sup> After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners.  
<sup>8</sup> For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, <sup>10</sup> and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

<sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.”

<sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

<sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head.

They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

<sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

<sup>38</sup> Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> “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. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.' ” <sup>44</sup> The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

<sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

<sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup> 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. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

<sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

<sup>55</sup> Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. <sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus.

<sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.  
<sup>59</sup> So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

<sup>62</sup> The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup> and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’

<sup>64</sup> Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.”

<sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” <sup>66</sup> So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



CHILDREN'S  
SERMON

# **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



## **Hymn of the Day**

**“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”**

**Hymn # 325**

**<sup>1</sup> I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk  
with me.**

Hymn # 325

**2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost  
breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with  
me.**

Hymn # 325

**Final** When I'm in trouble, Lord,  
walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord,  
walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Hymn # 325

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

## **CREED**

*The Nicene Creed*

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and  
the virgin Mary and became truly  
human.**

**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 INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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 and we remember our friends and family members before you.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries, for Darius and Jayce in Nepal, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Fron Lutheran Church in Roslyn, South Dakota.

Especially today we celebrate and lift before you the ministry of New Sweden Lutheran Church in Manor, Texas and their pastor, Hans Lillejord. May your grace flow through them as they share your Good News.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

# **THE 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.**

## **COMMUNION**

*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.*

## ***Lamb of God***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.***



*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.*

# **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song**

**“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”**

**Hymn # 543**

**<sup>1</sup> Go, my children, with my  
blessing, never alone. Waking,  
sleeping, I am with you; you are  
my own.**

Hymn # 543

**In my love's baptismal river I  
have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my  
blessing, you are my own.**

Hymn # 543

**2 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at  
peace and pure. Here you learned  
how much I love you, what I can  
cure.**

Hymn # 543

**Here you heard my dear Son's story;  
here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at  
peace and pure.**

Hymn # 543

**Final Go, my children, fed and  
nourished, closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
joyful and free.**

Hymn # 543

**Here my Spirit's power filled you;  
here his tender comfort stilled  
you. Go, my children, fed and  
nourished, joyful and free.**

Hymn # 543

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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PALM  
SUNDAY

welcome