



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture Psalm 100:3



March 29, 2026 *Palm Sunday*

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.*

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD.

There is more information about our ministry on the back of the bulletin.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*rise in body or spirit when indicated by **

GATHER IN FELLOWSHIP HALL – WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP:

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

Hosanna in the Highest!

We Gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, † one God,
who enters into the fray of our ragged lives,
who makes beauty out of ashes, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS:

Let us pray: **O Jesus, bless these palms and all we who carry them. We wave them in your honor as the crowds did long ago. We sing “Hosannah!” and welcome you to enter the gates of our hearts, for you are our true king and messiah. Guide our steps as we follow you through this holy week. May our worship be genuine and may our lives reflect your unfailing love for all people. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel of the Lord, according to Matthew, the 21st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

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.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

All: (waving palms): “Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds were saying,

All: "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

PROCESSIONAL SONG: *Pave the Way with Branches*

Jesus is coming.

Pave the way with branches.

Jesus is coming. Hosanna. Repeat

Hosanna, Jesus is coming.

Hosanna to the Prince of peace. Repeat

Additional verses ad lib.:

Release for the captives . . .

Hope for the downtrod . . .

Land for the landless . . .

Debts are forgiven . . .

WELCOME TO WORSHIP:

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

Hosanna in the Highest!

***SONG OF WELCOME: *All Glory Laud and Honor v. 1-3* 344 Red Hymnal**

Refrain

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

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

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

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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Sovereign God,
you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Place your palms in front of the altar as you go to your seats.

KIDS' TIME: *What does a real king look like?*

INTRODUCTION TO PSALM

PSALM 118:

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good;
God's mercy en- | dures forever.

**⁴Let those who fear the | Lord declare,
"God's mercy en- | dures forever."**

⁸It is better to take refuge | in the Lord
than to | trust in mortals.

**⁹It is better to take refuge | in the Lord
than to | trust in rulers.**

¹³I was pressed and pressed to the | point of falling,
but the Lord came | to my help.

**¹⁴The Lord is my strength | and my song,
and has become | my salvation.**

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:
"The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!"

**¹⁶The right hand of the Lord | is exalted!
The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!"**

¹⁷I shall not | die, but live,
and declare the works | of the Lord.

**¹⁹Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the Lord.**

²⁰"This is the gate | of the Lord;
here the righ- | teous may enter."

**²¹I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation.**

²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

**²³By the Lord has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵**Hosanna! O Lord, save us!**

We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;

we bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷**The Lord is God and has given us light.**

Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹**Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;**

God's mercy endures forever.

READING: Philippians 2:5-11

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

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

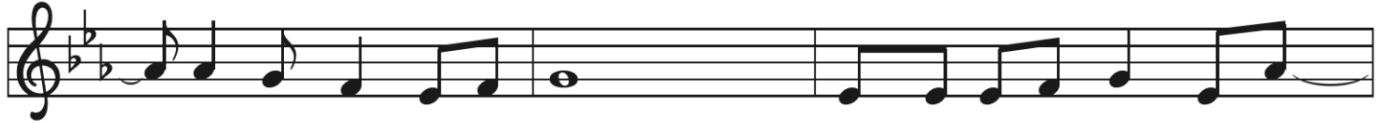
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes



in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is the one who comes



in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:12-17

The Gospel of the Lord, according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a den of robbers."

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry ¹⁶and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself'?" ¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: *The Disruptive Healing King*

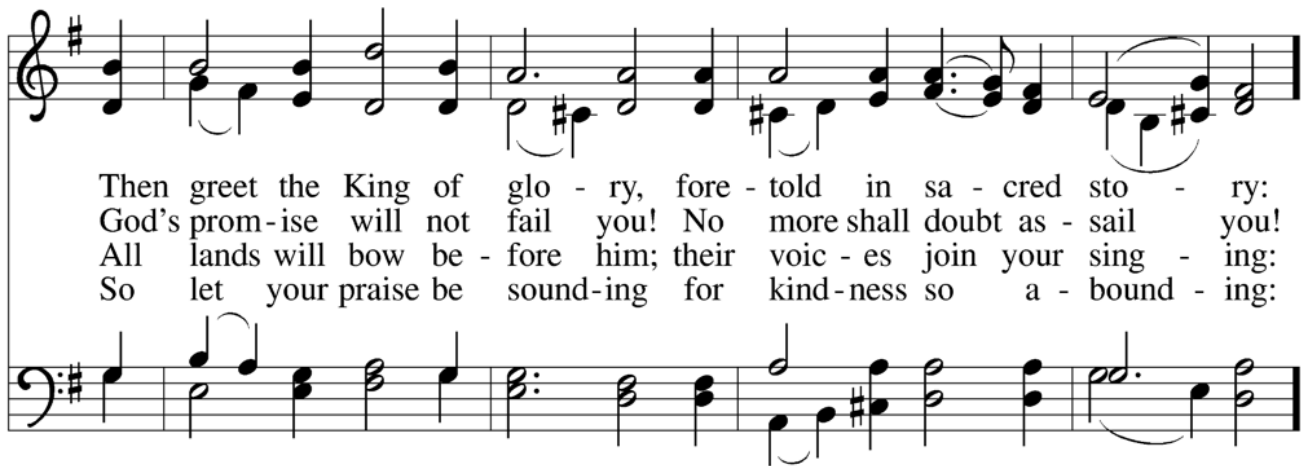
Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt



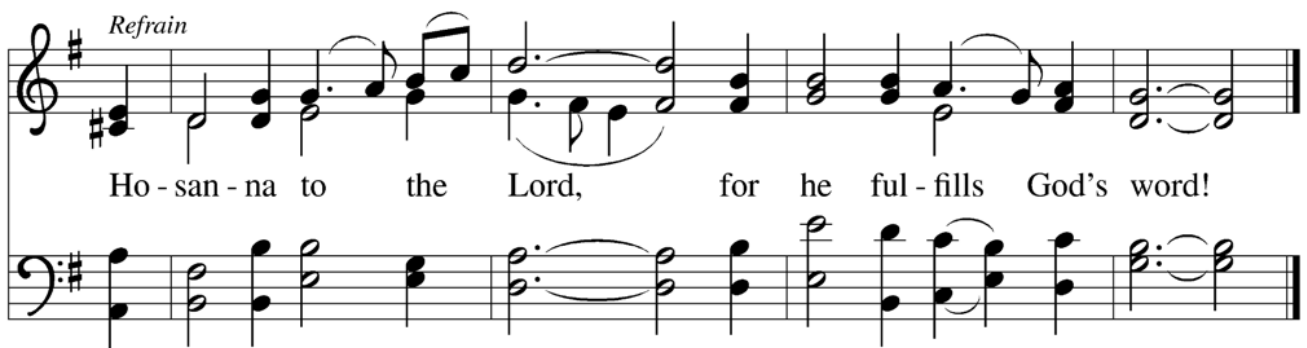
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FOR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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***CONFESSION:**

On this Palm Sunday, O God, we remember how quickly we change: how fickle we are, how we pledge our devotion one moment and turn our backs the next.

We go from shouting “Hosanna! Save Us!” to “Crucify Him.”

We declare that we love our neighbors,

but we so easily ignore the needs and block out the voices of the homeless, hungry, sick and poor in our communities and around the world.

We speak up for change and justice,

and then continue unjust practices in daily lives by what we consume and the needs we ignore.

Forgive us, O God, **for we are half-hearted believers.**

Forgive us, O God, **for we tire easily.**

Forgive us, O God, **for we forget and we grow weary.**

Forgive us, restore us, and renew us for the journey of faith, so that we might become whole-hearted people who live wholly into Your vision of new life. In the name of Christ, who lived into the fullness of humanity, and whom we follow. Amen.

PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary.

OFFERING AND CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Children are invited to come forward to get a pail to collect change and bills for our mission of the month, which is Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

To give online, scan here.

Thank you so much for your support of our shared ministry!



OFFERTORY MUSIC:

Ya Ghazali

O Gazelle

يا غزالي

O my gazelle how they distanced you from me

يا غزالي كيف غني أبعدوك

ya ḡa-za-li kai-fa ḡan-ni 'ab-ḡa-duk

They devastated me and made you abandon me

سنتوا شملي وهجري عودوك

fat-ta-tu jam-li wa haḡ-ri ḡaw-wa-duk

I begged for mercy, she refused

صحت رفقا يا حبيبي قال لا

ḡih-tu rif-qan ya ḡa-bi-bi qa-la la

I said nurture our affection O gazelle

قلت راعي الود يا ريمم الفلا

qul-tu ra-ḡil- wid-da ya ri-mal fa-la

She said, the one who loves should not complain

قال من يهوى فلا يشكو القلا

qa-la man yah-wa fa-la yaf-kuḡ qī-la

I said, don't you feel sorry for my tears, she said cry all you want

قلت حسبي مذمعي قال سفوك

qul-tu ḡas-bi mad-ma-ḡi qa-la sa-fuk

O gazelle what a magnificent beauty you are

يا غزالا بالبها ما أجملك

ya ḡa-za-lan bil-ba-ha ma 'aḡ-ma-lak

I wonder who made it lawful for you to kill me

يا ترى في قتلتي من حلك

ya tu-ra fi qat-la-ti man ḡal-la-lak

I have loved nothing but you

كنت لا أعشق خلا ما خلاك

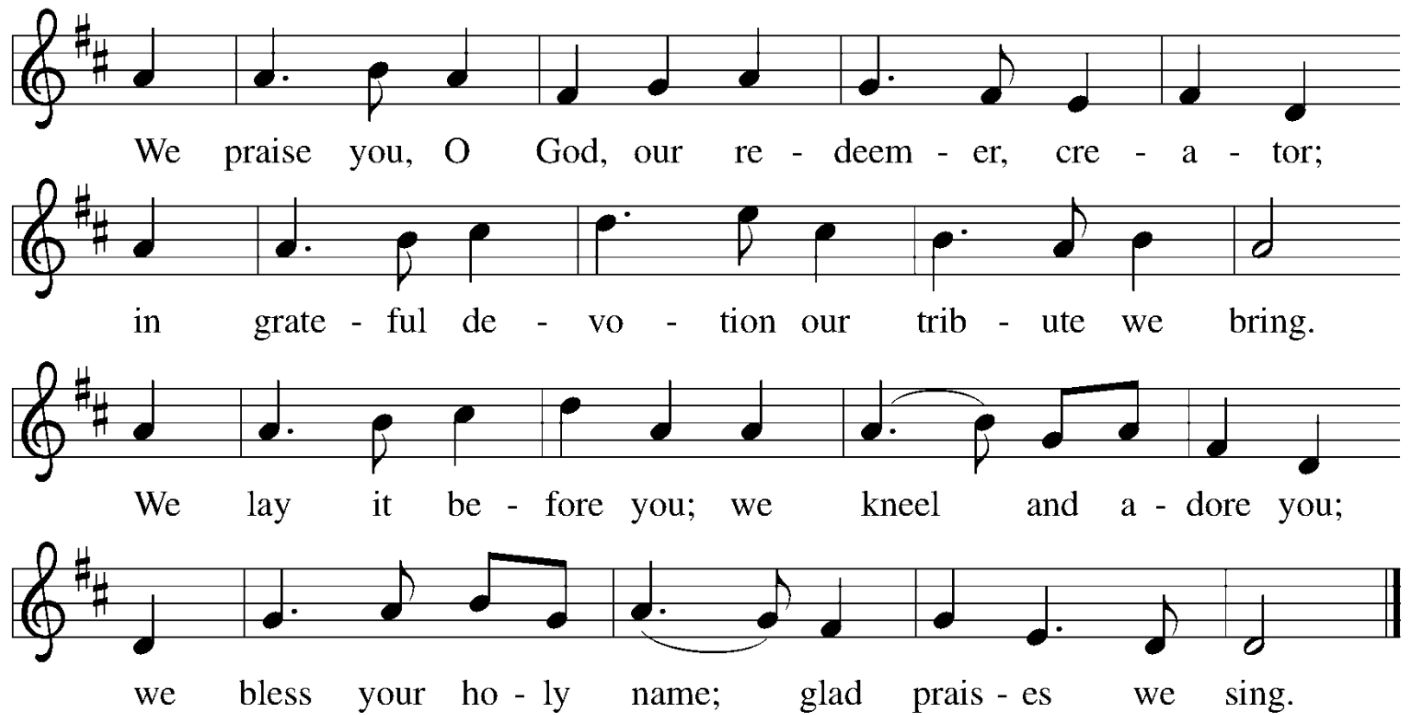
kun-tu la 'aḡ-ḡa-qu xil-lan ma xa-lak

They taught you to abandon me and now you have left me

علموك الهجر حتى وصلوك

ḡal-la-mu-kaḡ haḡ-ra ḡa-ta wa-ḡa-luk

OFFERTORY SONG:



We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

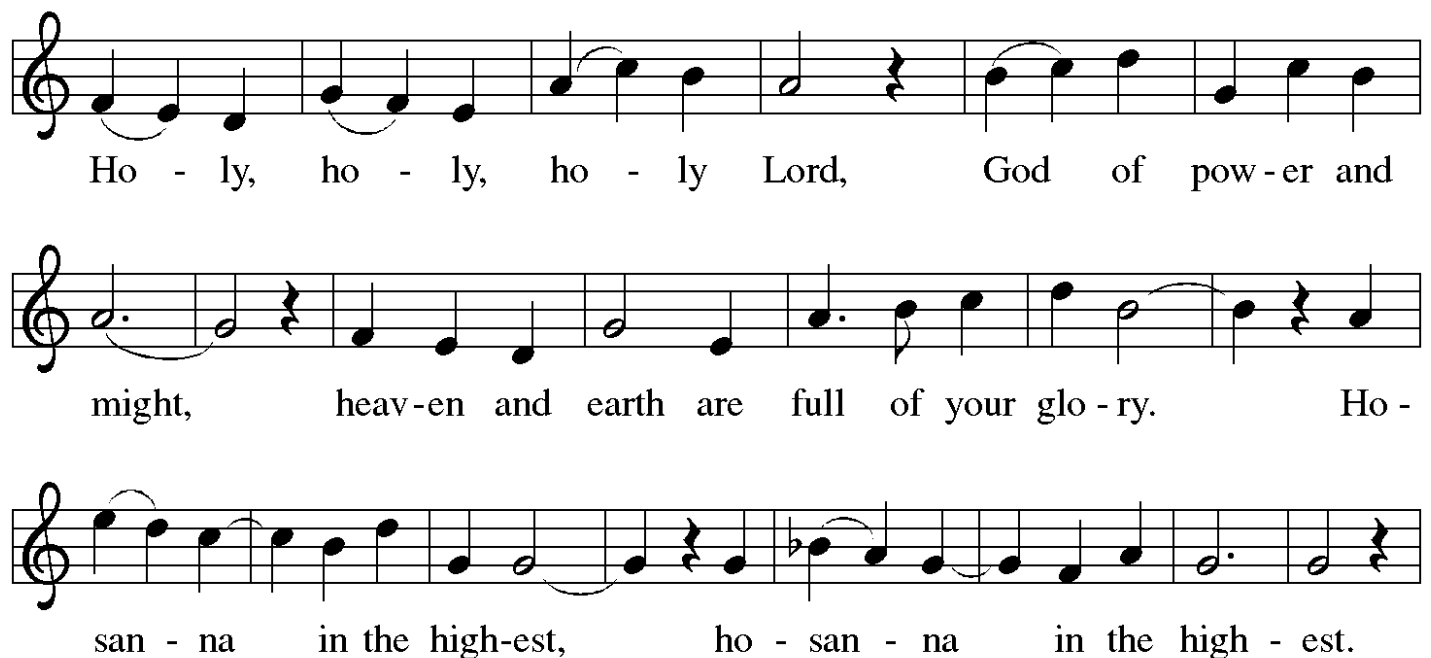
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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

HOLY COMMUNION: *All are welcome at Christ's table.*

COMMUNION SONG:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



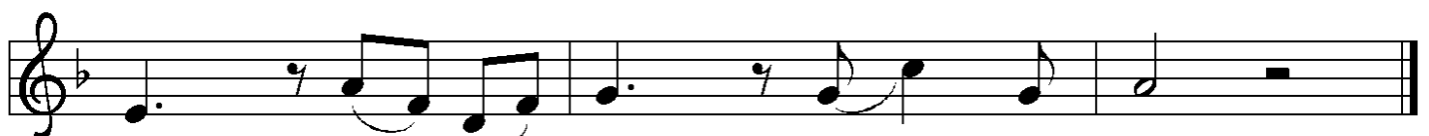
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

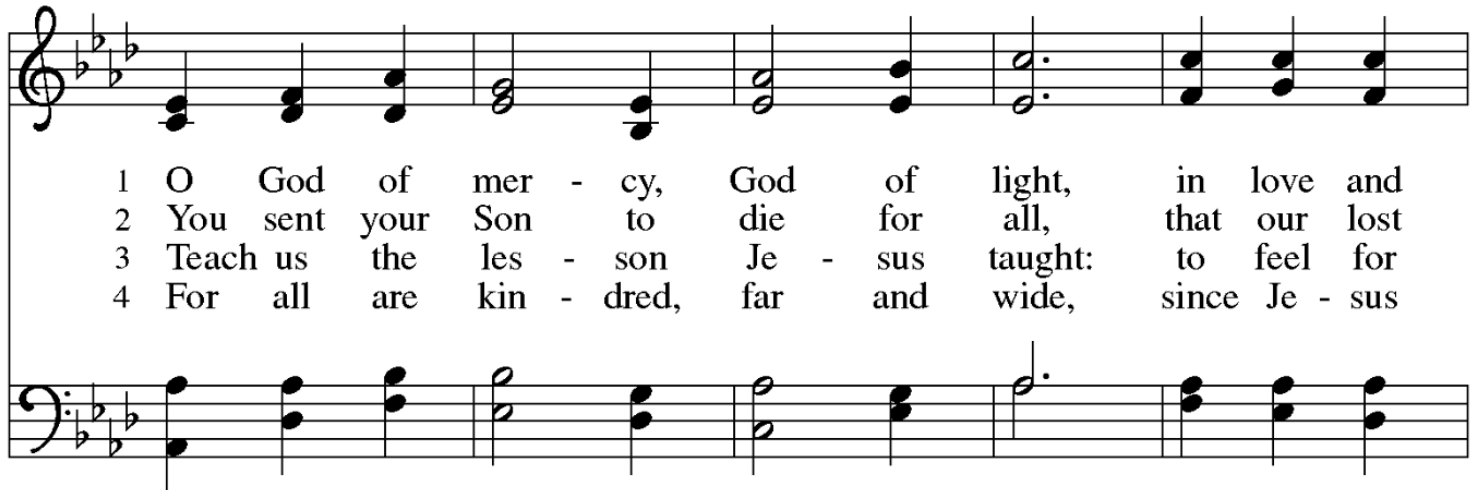


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

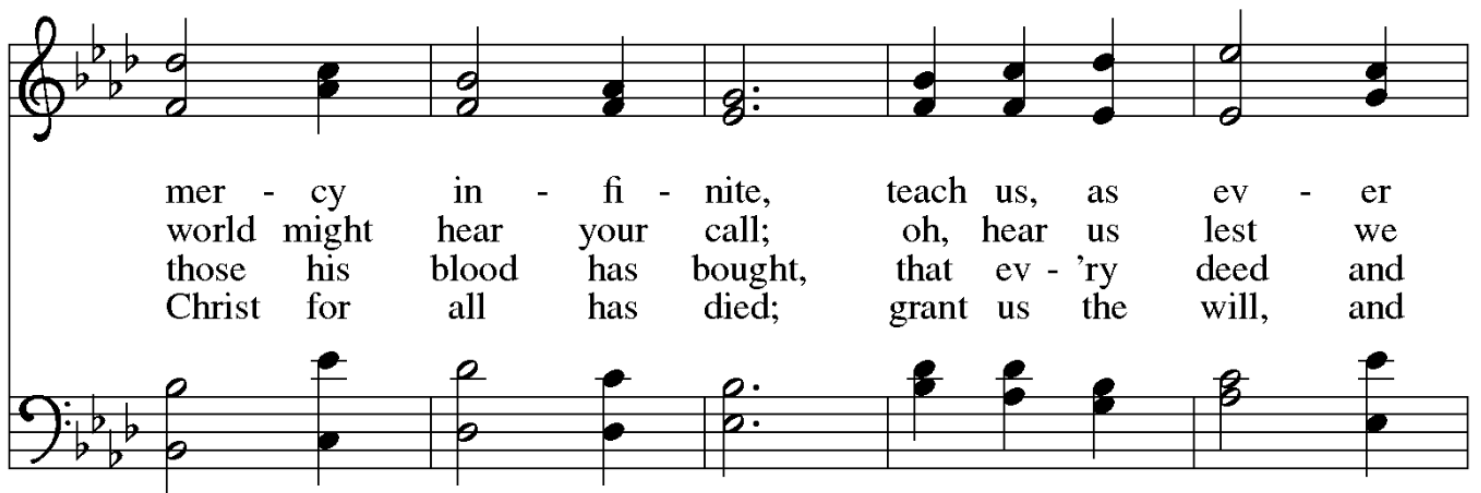


world; grant us peace, grant us peace.


COMMUNION HYMNS: *O God of Mercy, God of Light* verses 1-4 714 Red Hymnal



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.
 Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

***SENDING SONG: Shout to the Lord** sung twice

821 Red Hymnal

Children are invited to come forward to play percussion instruments during the Sending Song.



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.



My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;



let ev - 'ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise



to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the



sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;



for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.



Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

***DISMISSAL: Go in peace; fix your eyes on the cross. Thanks be to God.**

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965
Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech
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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY:

PRESIDING AND PREACHING: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce

CANTOR: Melissa Bills

ASSISTING MINISTER: Jane Kemp

LECTOR/READER: Brian Caton

USHERS: Dave Siefken, Laura Barlament

GREETERS: Jan Siefken, Edith Searles

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Veda Shimek, Pranav Caton

ALTAR GUILD: Jane Borelli, Elizabeth Kaschins

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN: Carter Thompson

FELLOWSHIP: Kerry Johnson, Elizabeth Kaschins, Dave & Jan Siefken, Brian Caton, Marilyn Rue

Thanks to Erik Berg (djembe), Nina Sessions (bass), Laura Barlament (flute) and Pam Torresdal (clarinet) for playing with the choir today!

SPECIAL REQUEST - SPRING PLANTS OR FLOWERS FOR EASTER SERVICES



Altar Guild welcomes contributions to be displayed for the Easter Vigil Service on Saturday evening, April 4, and Easter Sunday, April 5. All arrangements for purchasing and providing flowering plants/flowers are made individually, not through the Church Office. Decorah's Country Garden is offering special pricing on the following and will deliver them to the church: Kalanchoes and Cyclamen, \$25; Mums, \$30; Hydrangeas, \$40; Azaleas, \$50. Country Garden orders must be placed no later than Monday, March 30. Due to sensitivities to odors and pollen, Easter lilies (or other lilies) are not placed in the sanctuary. All plants/flowers should be delivered to the church by 3:00 p.m., Saturday, April 4. You are welcome and encouraged to remove your plant/flowers after the Easter Sunday service. Contributions can be designated in memory or honor of friends and loved ones. Please provide names to the Church Office no later than Wednesday, April 1.

Holy Week At Good Shepherd

Thursday, April 2: MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:15pm Worship with Holy Communion

Friday, April 3: GOOD FRIDAY

6:15pm Jazz Worship

Saturday, April 4: HOLY SATURDAY

1:00pm Easter Egg Dyeing Party

6:15pm Easter Vigil Bonfire & Worship, with reception to follow

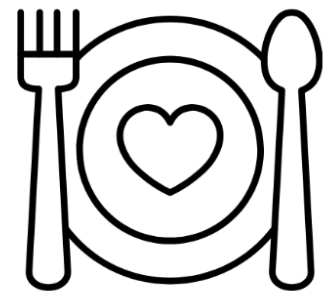
Sunday, April 5: EASTER SUNDAY

9:30am Celebratory Worship

11:00am Easter Egg Hunt

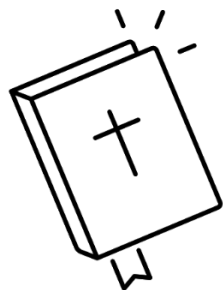
11:30am Easter Potluck Dinner

Easter Potluck Dinner



Sunday, April 5th, 11:30am

Good Shepherd members, friends, and guests are invited to attend our Easter Potluck Dinner sponsored by the Good Shepherd Scholarship Committee and WELCA. Turkey, ham, scalloped potatoes and drinks will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share, a salad or a dessert if possible. A freewill donation to benefit the Good Shepherd Youth Group activities will be available for those wishing to participate. Kids activities will be available.



College Student Bible Study

Thursdays, 9:45-10:45am

Magpie Coffeehouse

All college age students are invited to bible study on Thursdays at Magpie.

A partnership between Good Shepherd and Decorah Lutheran, we will have a time for fellowship, diving into the Word, and prayer! Coffee is on us!

This Week at Good Shepherd

Today, Sunday, March 29th: Palm Sunday

10:45 AM: Fellowship Time; Fellowship Hall

4:00 PM: Decorah Farmers Market Vendor Meeting/Potluck

Monday, March 30th: Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM

9:30 AM: Church Staff Meeting

3:30 PM-8 PM: Violin Lessons

6:30 PM: AL/ANON; Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 31st: Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM

9:30 AM: Bible Study with Pastor Kristen; Library — all are welcome

Wednesday, April 1st: Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM

3:30 PM: Men's Coffee Ministry; Lefse Lodge Kafe

7:15 PM: Choir Practice

8:00 PM: Band Practice

Thursday, April 2nd: Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM

9:45 AM: College Student Bible Study, Magpie Café

5:30 PM: Racial Justice Committee

6:15 PM: Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Friday, April 3rd: Church Office Hours: 9 AM-12 PM

6:15 PM: Good Friday Jazz Worship Service

Saturday, April 4th:

1:00 PM: Easter Egg Dyeing Family Event

3:00 PM: Easter dinner table setup

6:15 PM: Easter Vigil Bonfire and Worship Service with reception to follow

Sunday, April 5th: Easter Sunday

9:30 AM: Easter Sunday Festival Worship, Sanctuary; with Holy Communion
Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

11:00 AM: Easter Egg Hunt

11:30 AM: Easter Potluck Dinner

THE CHUCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, APRIL 6th.

Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Praying for others is a cherished ministry that everyone can participate in at any time. People on the prayer list are welcome to remain there for as long as is needed.

Those with health concerns:

- Philip Swanson
- Marilyn Anderson
- Mic Martin
- Dick Schmidt,
Brian Larsen-Schmidt's dad
- Wanda Rueber
- Robin Darland
- Barbara Nasby, *best friend of Stephanie Hoff*
- Ann Fredrickson,
friend of Gabby Bizal
- Bob Wilson
- Linda and Jim Morgan, *Jane Borelli's sister and brother-in-law*
- Joan Searles
- Glenda Wuest
- Naomi Craft
- Barbara, *mother of Christy Vrtis*
- Anthony McCabe
- Mickey Slind
- Jon Wendling
- James Barth
- Ginny Olson
- LaVerne Ramsey
- Harland Nelson
- Carrie Solberg
- Jutta Anderson

Those who grieve:

- Warren Overlie and family, upon the death of his wife BJ Overlie
- Steve Hopkins and family, upon the death of his aunt Verona Zelle
- Dan Raney and family, upon the death of his aunt Evah Raney

To have a prayer request added to or removed from the Prayer List, please email Tristan at office@goodshepherddecorah.org or call (563) 382-3963.

You're invited to a Good Shepherd Book Study!

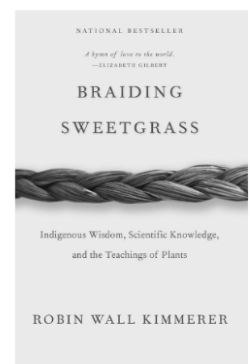
Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

6 Session Book Discussion with 2 meeting options:

5:45-6:45 pm on Mondays with Pastor Kristen, April 13 through May 18.

Or 12-1 on Thursdays with Gabby, April 16-May 21


We will meet at Good Shepherd (in the Solar Courtyard when temperature allows!) There will be some copies available for purchase at the church for \$22. We will discuss the first section at our first session.





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
701 Iowa Ave. Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 382-3963 office@goodshepherddecorah.org

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS! It is a joy to worship with you. You are welcome to enjoy really great coffee, juice, treats, and conversation down the hall after worship – just follow the crowd. Sit anywhere!

- **All are welcome at Good Shepherd.** God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection. We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.
- In keeping with our welcome, **Good Shepherd is a Reconciling in Christ partner congregation**, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. **We are an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation** - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. Good Shepherd buildings are Carbon Neutral/Net Zero Energy use.
- **Our RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT** was approved by the congregation on February 6th, 2022. Find the full statement at goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement or by scanning the  code.
- **ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION**, the bread is all non-gluten. Wine is dark, grape juice light.

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

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