

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 (8:15) Miriam Gibson *All Glory, Laud and Honor* POWELL
(10:45) Handbells *Hosanna to the King* MOCKELBUST

PROCESSION WITH PALMS #264 *Prepare the Royal Highway* BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CONFESSION

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.

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all. And also with you.

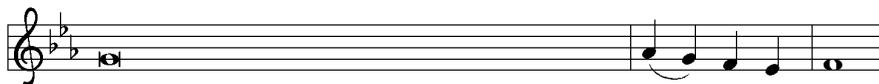
KYRIE ELEISON [Lord, have mercy]



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



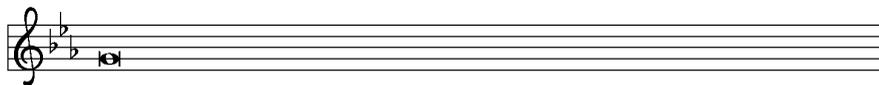
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



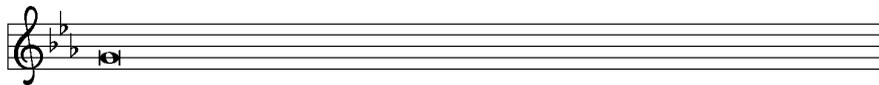
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. 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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50: 4-9a

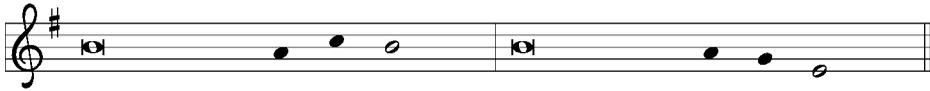
The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

⁴The 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. 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 in court 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. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31: 9-16 (we sing responsively, verse by verse)



- ⁹ Have 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.**
- ¹¹ 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.
- ¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;
I am as useless as a | broken pot.**
- ¹³ 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.
- ¹⁴ **But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O Lord.
I have said, “You | are my God.**
- ¹⁵ My times are | in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.
- ¹⁶ **Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”**

SENIOR CHOIR (10:45) *Hosanna!* BESIG

SECOND READING: Philippians 2: 5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21: 1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

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:

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,

“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, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

SERMON *Pastor Tucker O’Leary, n/OLF*

HYMN OF DAY #344 *All Glory, Laud and Honor* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

APOSTLES' CREED

With voices united, let us confess our faith

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.

THE PRAYERS

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

...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING *The Holy City* COLLINS

OFFERTORY #801 *Change My Heart, O God*

CHANGE MY HEART



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you. *End*



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled "GREAT THANKSGIVING". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff contains "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff contains "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff contains "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with many slurs and ties.

It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS [Holy, Holy, Holy]

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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled "SANCTUS [Holy, Holy, Holy]". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of". The second staff contains "pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -". The third staff contains "san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the". The fourth staff contains "name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with many slurs and ties.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

AGNUS DEI [Lamb of God]



The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. 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. Amen.

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN #346 *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty* THE KING'S MAJESTY

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Festal Postlude* LEE



O God, Who Gives Us Life

Welcome to First Lutheran Church.

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

WE ASK EVERYONE to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of our Risen Lord by Toni Poling in honor of Nick & Erin's birthdays on April 4th and 2nd.

ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are now available for the 2026-27 school year on the church website under Forms/Youth Forms or the office. All applications and letters of recommendation are due in the church office by March 31st. Two scholarships are available, the Endowment General Scholarship and the Jeffrey Allan DeMoss Scholarship. Details are available in the February newsletter and when the forms are downloaded. Any questions, contact Cyndy Rotman at 419-348-0064.

- **MAUNDY THURSDAY** This year we will be doing a reenactment of the Last Supper. We will have members from Trinity (Findlay), St. Johns, Trinity (Arcadia), and First who will be joining their voices and talents to worship and praise God in a different way. This service will be a service of Holy Communion and the first communion of AJ Johnson and Hudson Beck!

GOOD FRIDAY On Good Friday we will be gathering together at 7pm for a Tenebrae Service entitled In Calvary's Shadow. This is a service of Word and Song that focuses on penitence and forgiveness. It beautifully and simplistically interweaves congregational participation, dramatic readings, and solos for the Spirit to work through all of us in new and blessed ways.

OUR TRADITIONAL "CROSS OF LOVE" has returned. Please feel free to place your donation in one of the envelopes provided in the bulletin and fill it out. You can place it in the offering plate, send it to the church, or drop off to the office. Your monetary donation will be recognized by hanging the envelope on our narthex cross in memory or honor of loved ones and friends. The proceeds will go to benefit the Blessing Basket at St. John's.

- **DON'T FORGET THE COMMUNITY DINNER!** APRIL'S Community Dinner RISES UP on Easter Sunday!! Please consider donating fresh fruit, fruit cups, or muffins! We will be serving "breakfast for lunch," so we won't need regular desserts or salads. I know this is a family time, but consider helping with prep, cleanup, OR JUST COME FOR FELLOWSHIP AND BRUNCH for those who don't have families!! Thanks!

OFFICE HOURS As of April 13th, the office hours will be changing to Monday—Thursday, 8:30am to 3:30pm. The bulletin will be assembled at 9:30 on Fridays as usual, and as you order flowers, please request that they be delivered between 9:30 and 10am Friday morning. Thank you so much for your help as we make this transition!

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

HOLY WEEK SERVICE TIMES

Maundy Thursday (April 2):
 3pm - Tradition Service - St. John's Lutheran
 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay
 7pm - Service with Hand washing, reenactment of the Last Supper - First Lutheran
 109 E Lincoln, Findlay

Good Friday (April 3):
 12pm & 7pm Trinity Lutheran, 935 W Bigelow, Findlay
 5:30 pm - (Stations of the Cross)
 St. John's Lutheran, 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay
 7pm - First Lutheran Church 109 E Lincoln, Findlay
 Tenebrae Service

Holy Saturday (April 4):
 11am Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Lunch
 St. John's Lutheran Church, 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay

First Lutheran Church 109 E Lincoln, Findlay 8:15am and 10:45am	Your Findlay/Arcadia Area ELCA Lutheran Churches Sunday Worship Times	St. John's Lutheran Church 1701 Tiffin Ave, Findlay 9:30am
Trinity Lutheran Church 935 W Bigelow Ave, Findlay 9am	Trinity Lutheran Church 18974 State Rte 12, Arcadia 9:30am	