St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Sunday of the Passion
Palm Sunday
Holy Eucharist Rite II

Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin at 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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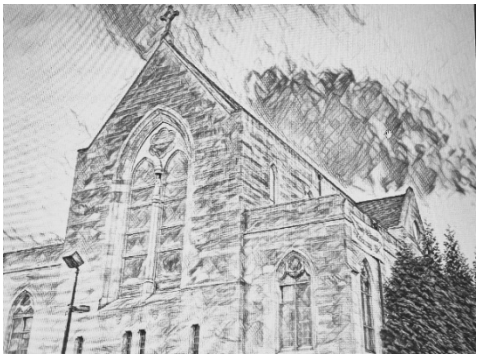
(330) 455-0286

Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net
We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton



Our mission

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

Sunday of the Passion

The Liturgy of the Palms

- **Matthew 21:1-11**
- **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29**

The Liturgy of the Word

- **Isaiah 50:4-9a**
- **Psalm 31:9-16**
- **Philippians 2:5-11**
- **Matthew 26:14—27:66**

Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

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The Liturgy of the Palms

Celebrant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
People *Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Processional Gospel Reading: Matthew 21: 1-11

[1]When [Jesus and his disciples] 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, 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."

[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."

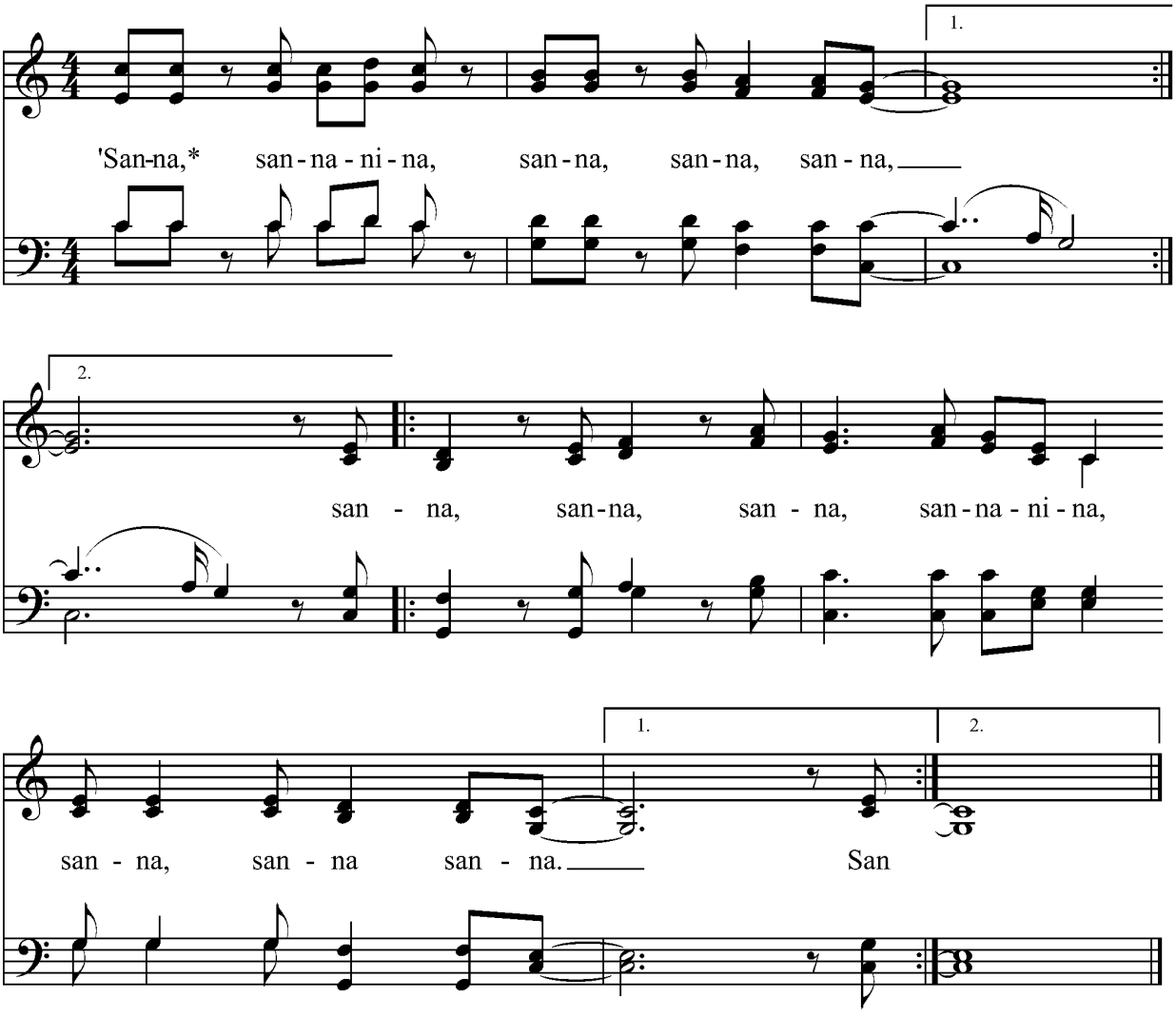
Blessing of the Palms

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his

victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen*.

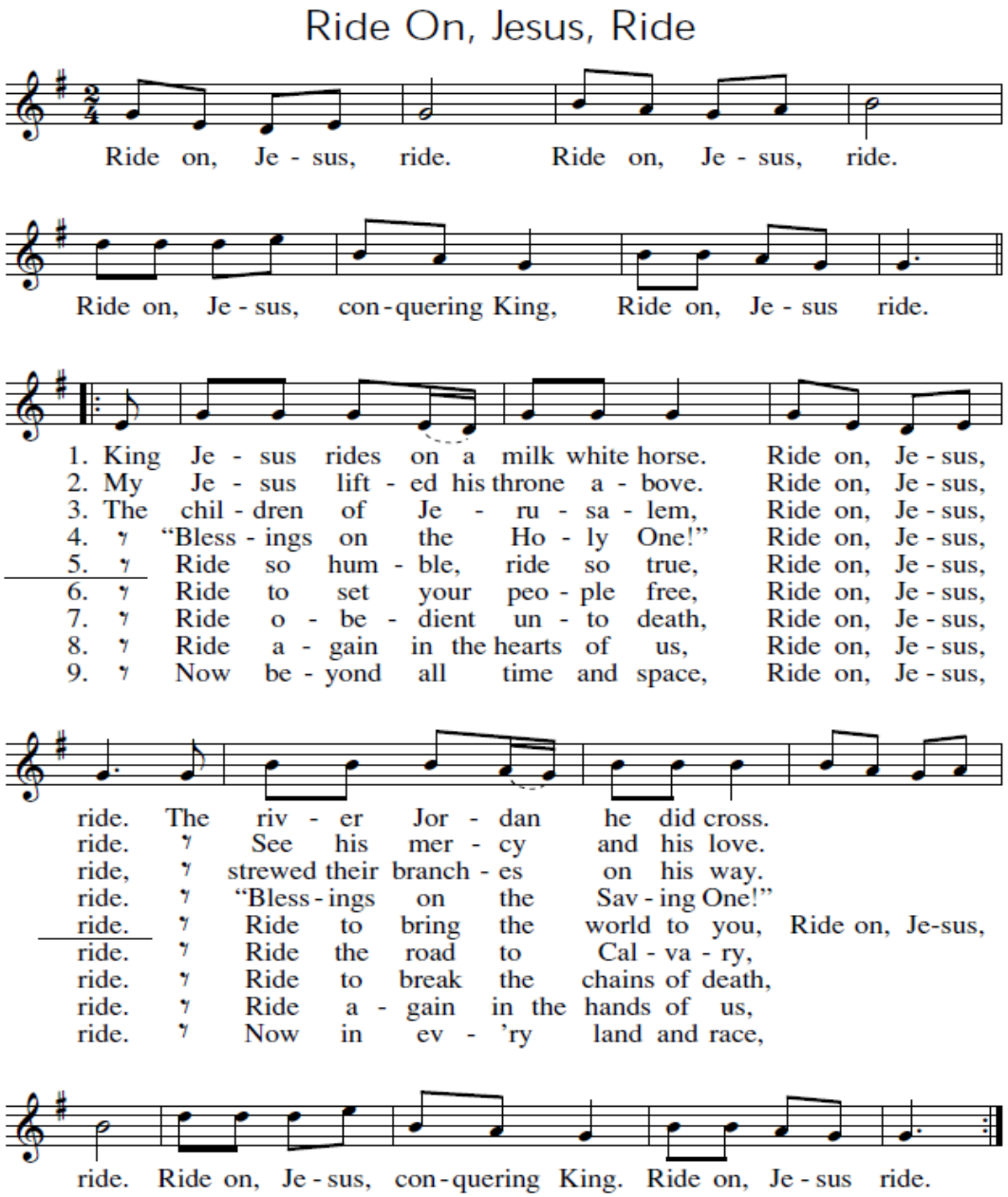
Celebrant: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
People *Hosanna in the highest*.

Sanna

**This is a shortened form of the word 'hosanna.'*

Words and Music: Traditional; arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928) © 1975 Celebration, PO Box 309, Aliquippa, PA 15001 [www.communityofcelebration.com]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Procession (*All hold branches in their hands)*

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.
People *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

Procession Hymn: Ride on Jesus

Text: African-American spiritual; verses 3-9, Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: African-American spiritual; harm. by Barbara Jackson Martin

Procession Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

The Lessons

First reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Please sit

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

[4]The 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.
[5]The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
[6]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.

[7]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;
[8]he 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?

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Silence may follow.

Psalm 31:9-16

Please remain seated

[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 have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
[12]I am forgotten like a dead man, 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]Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Please remain seated

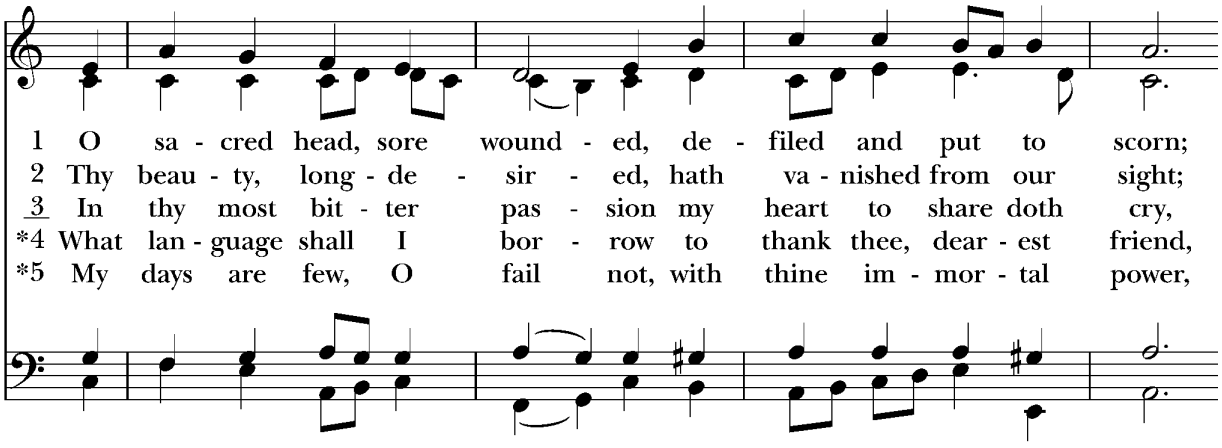
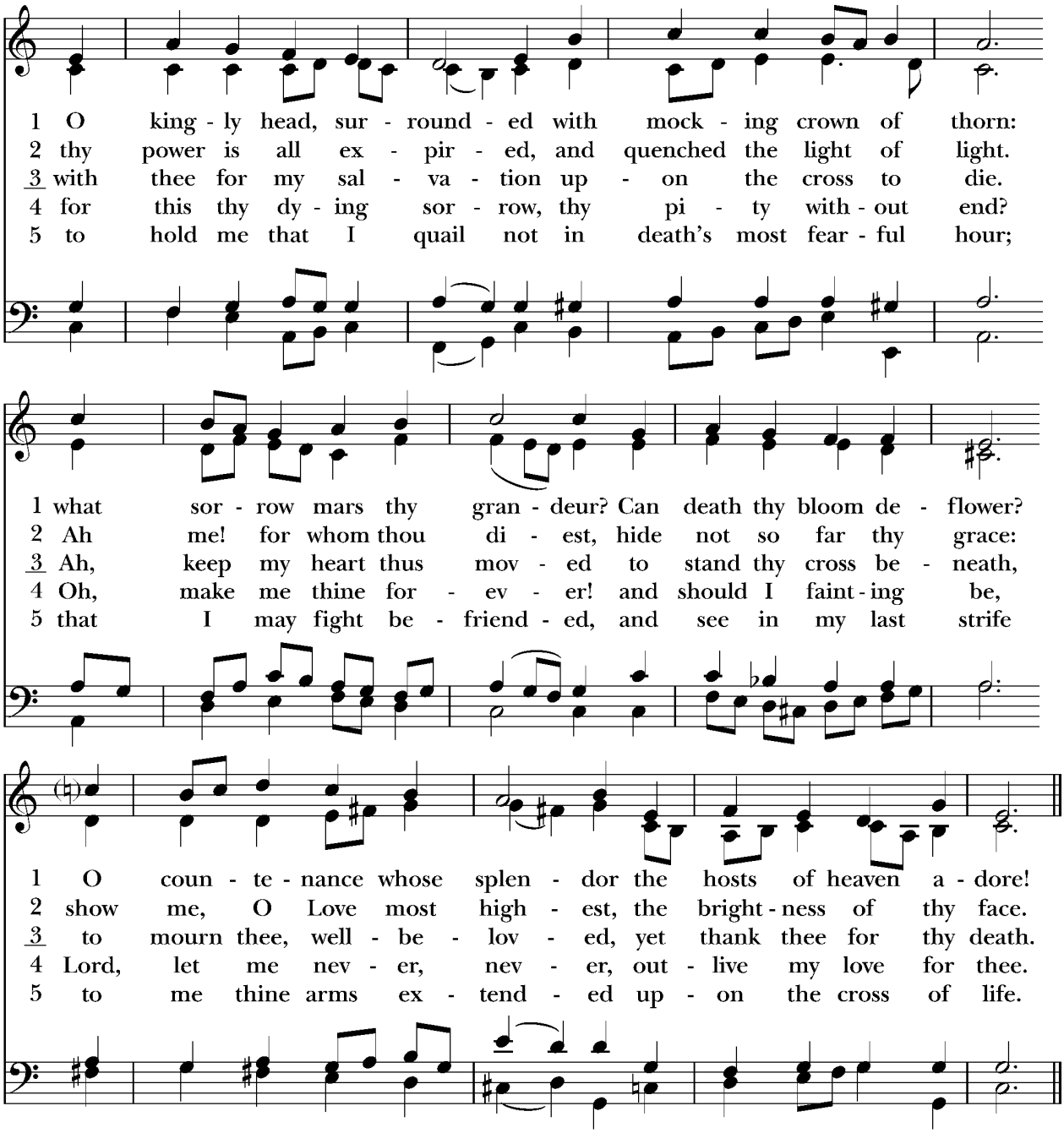
A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi

[5]Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
[6]who, 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence hymn: O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded (Passion Chorale) (H168)

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha, please stand if able.

Celebrant The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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

17 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?" 18 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.' " 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had
directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.
20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; 21 and while they were
eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22 And they became greatly
distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" 23 He
answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 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." 25 Judas, who
betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

26 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." 27 Then he took a cup, and
after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is my
blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 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."
30 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

31 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night;
for it is written,
'I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'
32 But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." 33 Peter said to him, "Though
all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." 34 Jesus said to him, "Truly
I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." 35 Peter
said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the
disciples.

36 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." 37 He took with him Peter and the two
sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. 38 Then he said to them, "I am
deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." 39 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." 40 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? 41 Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;

the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." [42]Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." [43]Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. [44]So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. [45]Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. [46]Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

[47]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. [48]Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." [49]At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. [50]Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. [51]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. [52]Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. [53]Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? [54]But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" [55]At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. [56]But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

[57]Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. [58]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. [59]Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, [60]but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward [61]and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' " [62]The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" [63]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." [64]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."

[65]Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. [66]What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." [67]Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, [68]saying, "Prophesy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,
"You also were with Jesus the Galilean." 70 But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I
do not know what you are talking about." 71 When he went out to the porch, another
servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of
Nazareth." 72 Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." 73 After a little
while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for
your accent betrays you." 74 Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know
the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered what Jesus had
said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept
bitterly.27:

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

3 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. 4 He said, "I have sinned
by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it
yourself." 5 Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went
and hanged himself. 6 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." 7 After conferring
together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. 8 For this
reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 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, 10 and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

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

15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd,
anyone whom they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus
Barabbas. 17 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?" 18 For he realized
that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 19 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." 20 Now the chief
priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus
killed. 21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release
for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with

Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" [23]Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

[24]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." [25]Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" [26]So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

[27]Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. [28]They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, [29]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!" [30]They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. [31]After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

[32]As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. [33]And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), [34]they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. [35]And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; [36]then they sat down there and kept watch over him. [37]Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

[38]Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. [39]Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads [40]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." [41]In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, [42]"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. [43]He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.' " [44]The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

[45]From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. [46]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?" [47]When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." [48]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. [49]But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." [50]Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. [51]At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. [52]The tombs also were

opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. [53]After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. [54]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!"

[55]Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. [56]Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

[57]When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. [58]He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. [59]So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth [60]and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. [61]Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

[62]The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate [63]and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' [64]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." [65]Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." [66]So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The Sermon: The Rev. Kay Ashby

Silence

The Creed

Please stand if able

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

The Prayers of the People

Remain standing if able

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."
For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Anne, our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick – Robert Thornton, Johanna Middleton, Jude Schario, Linda Fogle, Peter Dench, Patricia Willford, Cara Warren, Alice Bolam, Molly and Nathan Weisel, Gene, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Ed Denning, Doug Geissinger, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Bob Reiner, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins, Brinley Wyczalek, Alayna Linquist, Ronnie Long and Debbie Schmiedlen -- and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, especially Tom Clark, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.
To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant: For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People
Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And also with you.*
Please greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Church Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

Offertory Anthem: My Song is Love Unknown **(James Kirkby)**

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand in body or spirit

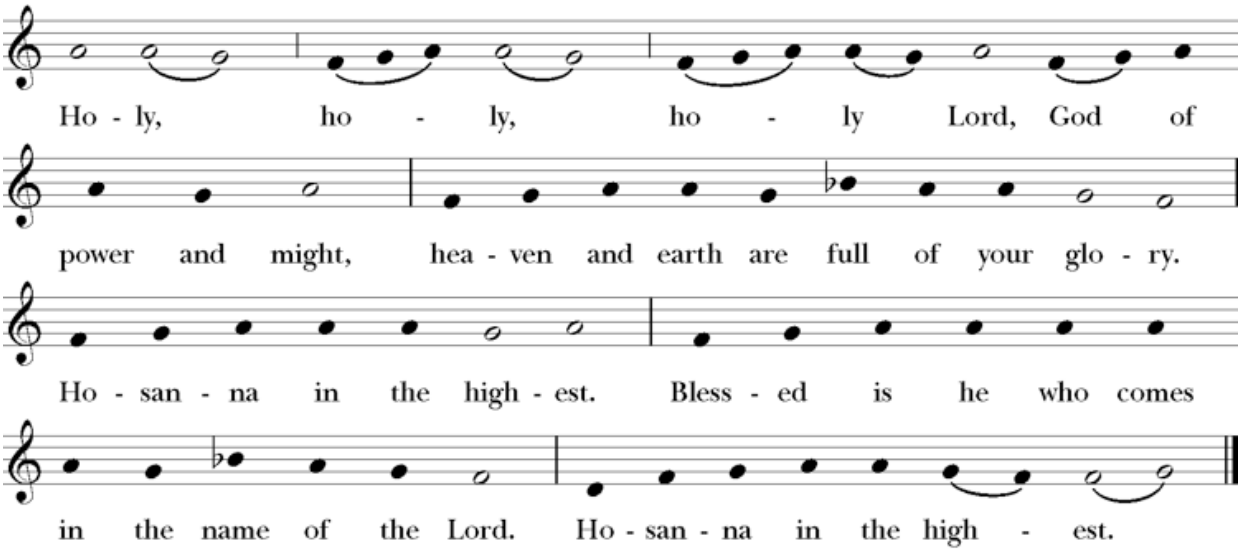
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People *We lift them to the Lord.*
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name: ♪♪♪

Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Plainsong Martens) (S122)



We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." ♪

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." ♪

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

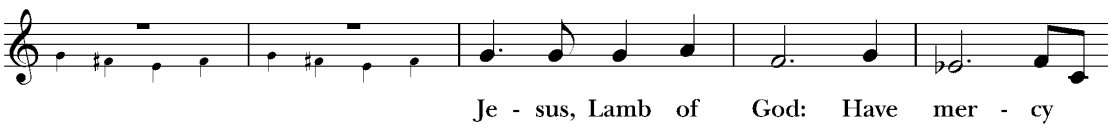
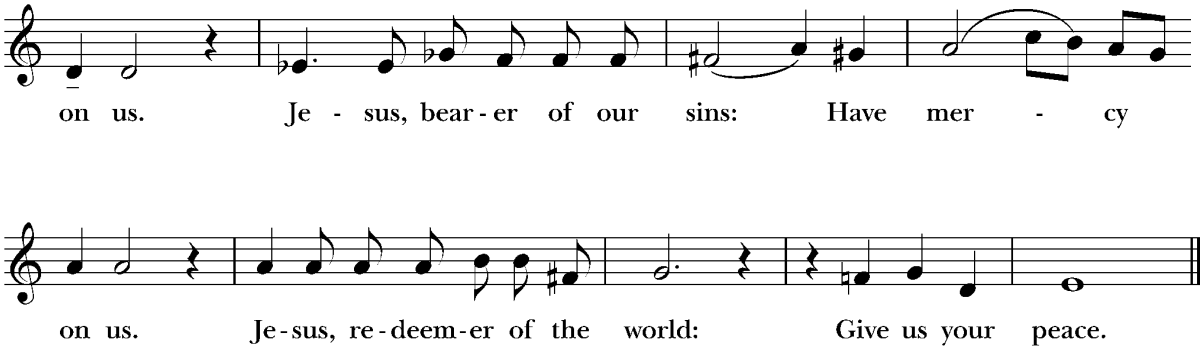
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***AMEN.***

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God (Mathias) (S165)

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God

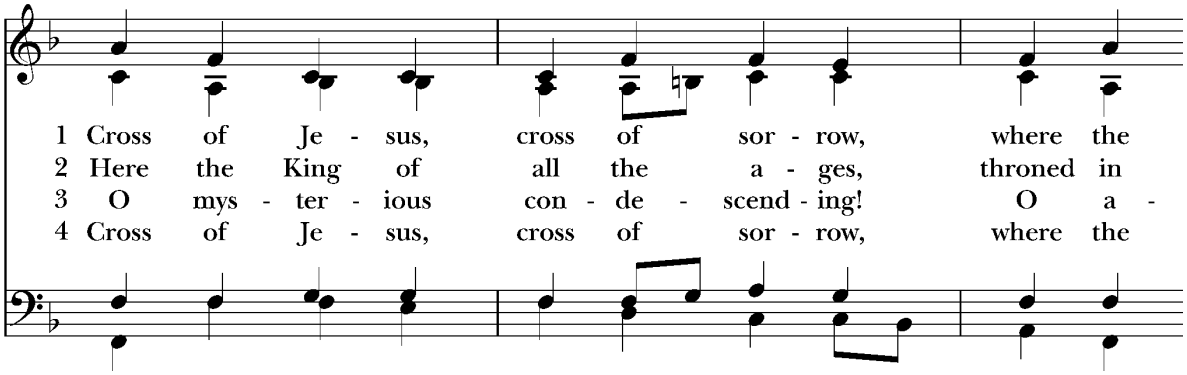
Spiritual Communion

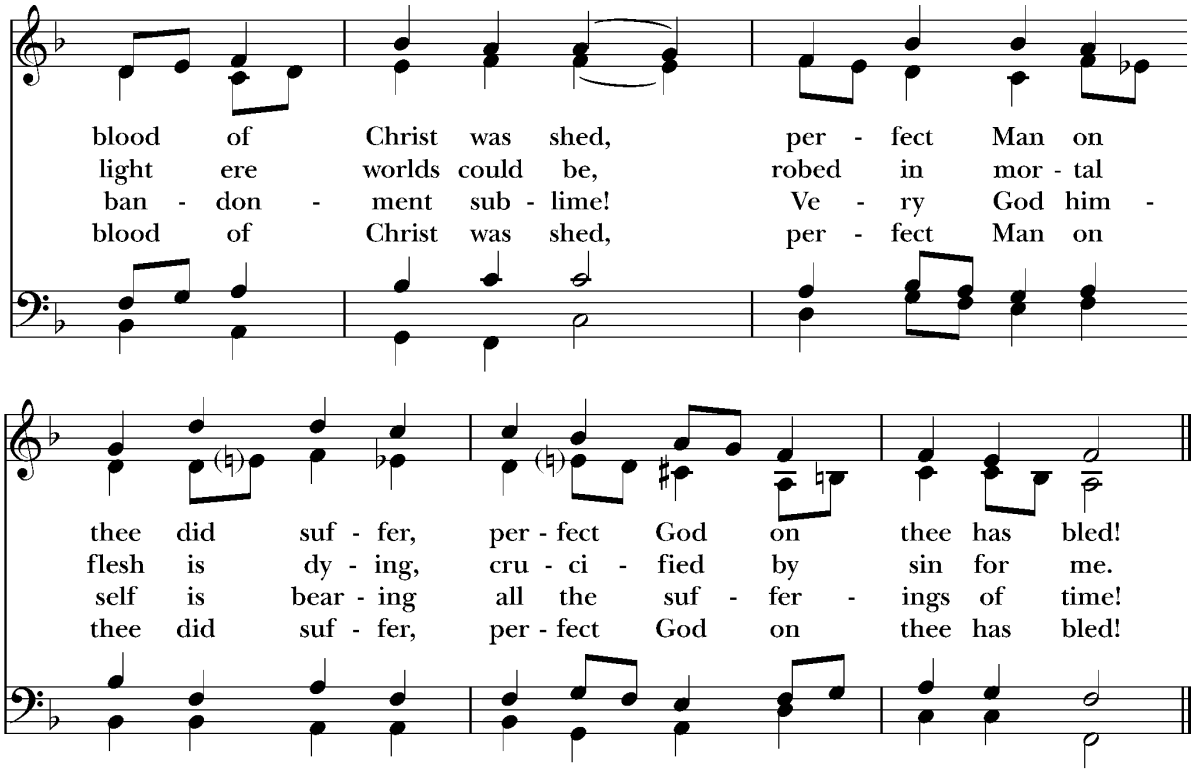
Celebrant: Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

*******At St. Paul's, all are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please inform clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the rail for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of the parish.*******

Communion Hymn: Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow (H160)





Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

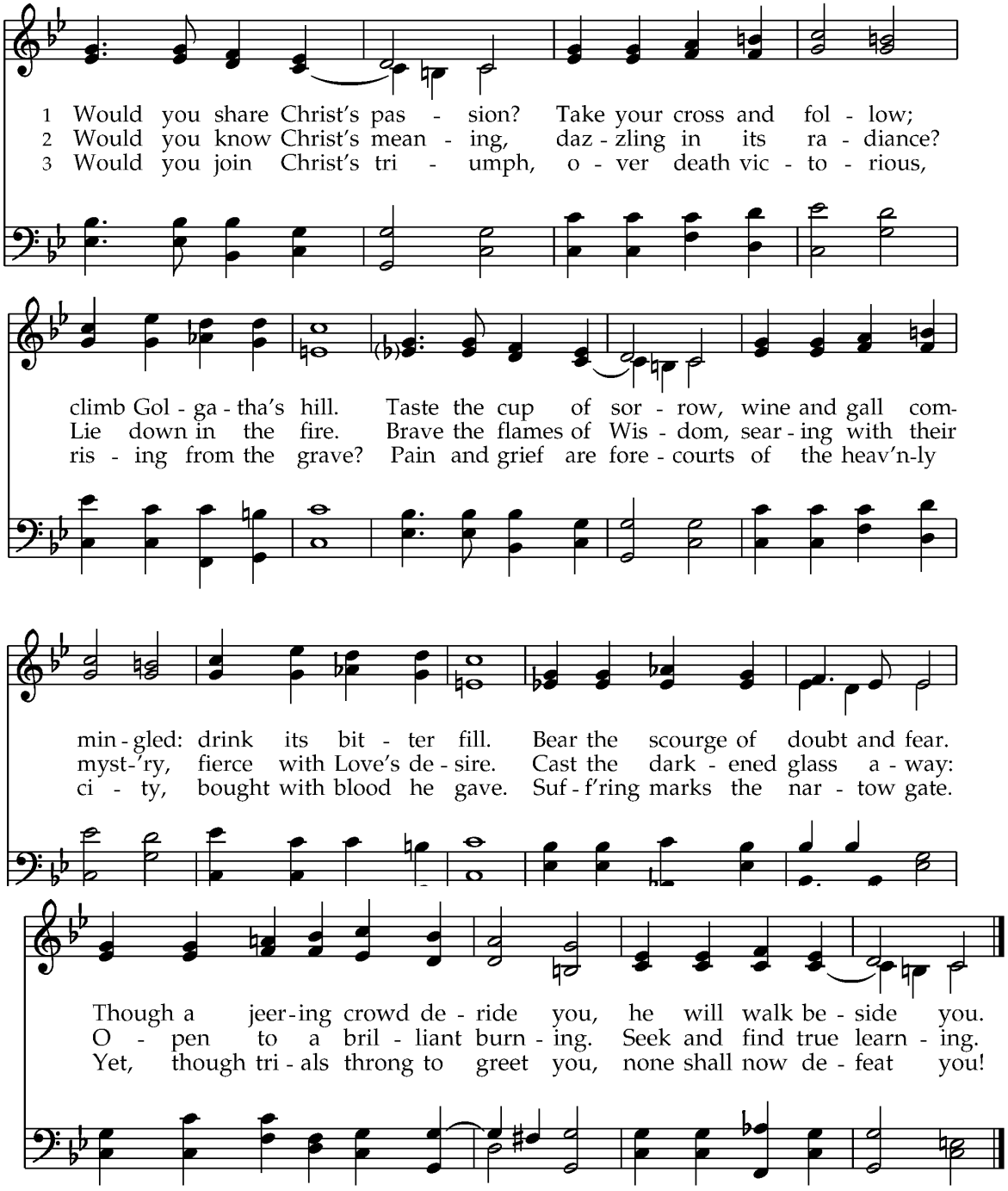
Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn: *Would you Share Christ's Passion* (VF 42)

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.

TODAY'S SERVERS:

Celebrant: The Revs. Kay and Joe Ashby
Greeters: David Lewis
Crucifer: Karl Roshong
Eucharistic Minister: Douglas Colmery
Torchbearers: Demetrius Carrothers, David Rotthoff
Video: David Lewis
Altar Guild: Susan Phillips and Barb Anderson
Lector: M.L. Schultze
Counters: David Rotthoff and Linda Heitger

PASSION READERS:

Narrator: Peggy Neidig
Judas Demetrius Carrothers
Jesus: Doug Colmery
Peter: Rick Enslen.
High Priest: Samantha Papadeonise
Servant Girl: Shirley Brown
Bystander: David Lewis
Pilate: Dave Rotthoff.
Pilate's Wife: Bonnie Landers
Centurion: Larry Simpkins

Happy March Birthdays!

Stephen Sutek 03/01
Robert Reiner 03/02
Linda Heitger 03/05
Paul Schmucker Jr. 03/05
Beverly Vail 03/05
Brenda Maurer-Denning 03/06
Jason Marcum 03/09
Haley Wade 03/11
Sean Ryan 03/12
Wendy Gray 03/13
Gregory Johanning 03/14
Corey Demastus 03/21
Johnathan Suba 03/22
Mike Paynter 03/26
Pierce Cox 03/27
Elizabeth Mapp 03/31

Happy March Anniversary!

The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Special Holy Week Services

- **Maundy Thursday, April 2:** Agape meal and Maundy Thursday service, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Guild Hall.
- **Stations of the Cross, Friday April 3** at noon.
- **Good Friday Service** with Crossroads United Methodist Church at St. Paul's, beginning at 7 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist Celebration, Sunday, April 5,** 10:30 a.m. Sunday followed by light refreshments in the Guild Hall.

A prayer for peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince

of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

What is an Agape meal and its significance on Maundy Thursday?

St. Paul's is again commemorating Maundy Thursday by sharing an Agape meal in the Guild Hall, followed by foot and hand washing, and then the solemn stripping of the altar in the Sanctuary.

Maundy (the shortened form of "mandatum," or "command") Thursday is believed to be the day when Jesus celebrated his final Passover with his disciples, and, in an act of humility, washed the feet of his disciples, and commanded them to do the same for each other.

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34

The Agape meal is a fellowship meal that revisits those Jesus shared with his disciples and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship).

Please let us know what you plan to bring by signing up today on the sheet across from the Guild Hall.

Good Friday service and donations

We are blessed to once again be observing Good Friday with our spiritual and literal neighbors, Crossroads United Methodist Church. This year, we'll be gathering at St. Paul's at 7 p.m. Good Friday is a day of fasting and special acts of discipline and self-denial for us all. It is also an exceptional opportunity God gives us to truly look beyond ourselves. In keeping with the spirit of the day, the collection received on Good Friday goes to a special purpose. This year, we're directing donations to the Immigrant Workers Project, a Canton nonprofit that helps immigrants in 29 Ohio counties in ways ranging from navigating their legal paths to learning English to reducing their isolation. Please give generously.

Please plan stay for a special coffee hour as we transform our palms into palm crosses, something we can keep with us throughout the year.

Thank you to Carol Sutek for the donation of today's palm strips and fans.