

# GATHERING

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*Worshippers gather outside the Sanctuary doors in the Narthex to receive palms and begin worship.*

\*Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Hosanna in the highest.**

## \*LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: 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.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Let us go forth in peace,

**People: in the name of Christ.  
Amen.**

WELCOME TO THIS  
WORSHIP CELEBRATION of the living Christ's presence in our midst. Christ comes to us with new life and strength for Christian living in daily life through the hearing of the Word, preaching, prayer, song, and community.

*Congregational responses are in bold*

\* Asterisks throughout the order of worship indicate the people standing, in body and/or in spirit.

## \*PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

*Congregation enters the Sanctuary and is seated.*

### PROCESSIONAL "Palm Sunday Prelude"

Shoemaker-Lohmeyer

*Shirley Newhart, organ*

## \*GATHERING SONG "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

*Hymn 344*

*v. 1-4*

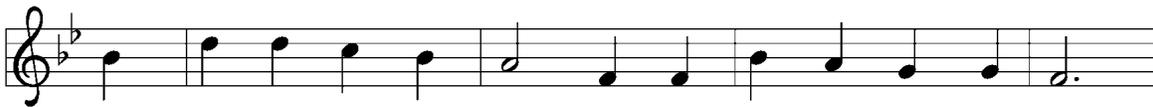
*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

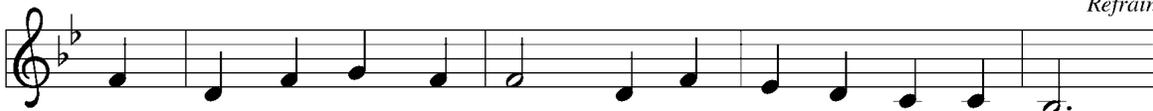


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

## \*GREETING

**Leader:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** And also with you.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: 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.

People: **Amen.**

## **ANTHEM** "In the Shadow of the Palms"

Larson

### *VOX CORDIUM*

*"Hosanna!" they cry, as they welcome their King, in majesty He rides into town. See how the children line the streets: watch how Jerus'lem bows down. But in the shadow of the palms, evil hands lie in wait. In the shadow of the palms, darkened hearts are filled with hate.*

*Blessed is He who comes in the Lord, in glory and splendor He reigns! Coats and branches placed in the street; see how the palms are lain! But in the shadow of the palms, crowds of anger and hatred scheme. In the shadow of the palms, pain and death remain unseen.*

*"Hosanna!" they cry, as they welcome their King, in majesty He rides into town. See how the children line the streets, watch how Jerus'lem bows down. See how Jerus'lem bows down. See in the shadow of the palms. See in the shadow of the palms.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Ken Ritz, Reader*

## **WORD**

*Ken Ritz, Reader*

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

*Old Testament 640*

*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.**

## **PSALMODY: Psalm 31:9-16**

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

**Leader:** <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.

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

**Leader:** <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.

**People:** <sup>12</sup>Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.

**Leader:** <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.

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

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

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

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

*New Testament 174*

*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.*

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

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

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

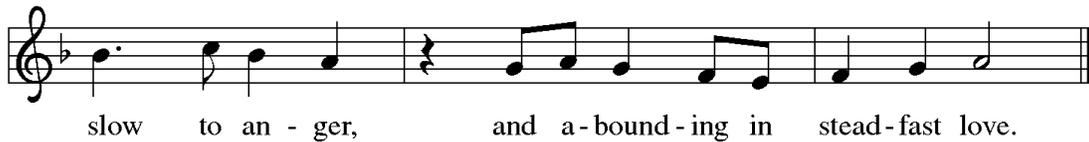
<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name given to 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.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

*New Testament 19*

*The triumphal entry, celebrating Christ as King while pointing toward the coming passion.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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

*March's **Eternal Candle** is given by Kay Yablecki "in celebration of Spring and new life in God's creation."*

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."

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

**SERMON** "Renewal of Hope and Joyful Witness"  
*Rev. Jason Talsness*

\*HYMN OF THE DAY "There in God's Garden"

Hymn 342

Verses 1-4



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending  
this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord,  
I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for;  
now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
"Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy  
healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations,  
take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*(In between the petitions of the prayers, the following response is offered.)*

Leader: Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

*(Final petition and response.)*

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

People: **Amen.**

# MEAL

## \*DIALOGUE



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.

## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### \*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.

### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

### COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"



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

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Generous God,

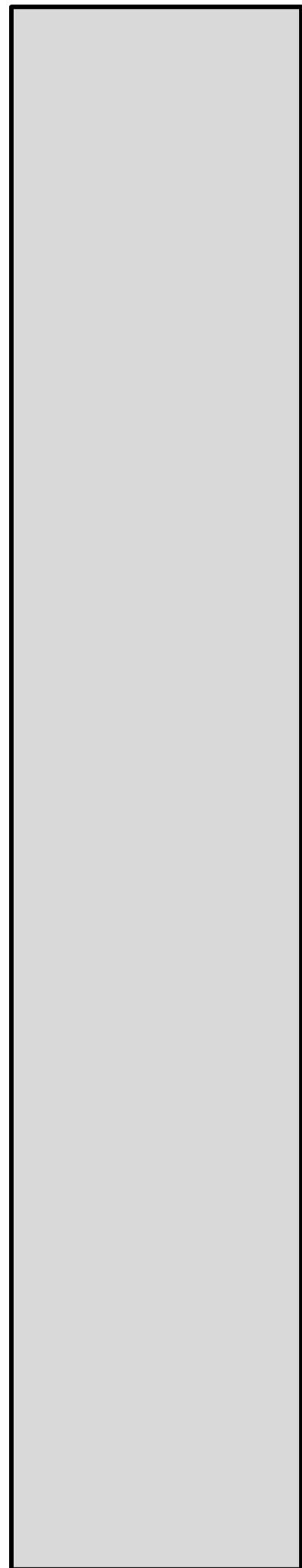
People: **at this table we have tasted your immeasurable  
grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.  
Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

Leader: Beloved,  
we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**



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**\*SENDING SONG** "Christ is the Life"

From a composer's collection titled "O Blessed Spring"



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,  
2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,  
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,  
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.  
who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.  
whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.  
cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans - form - ing burn - ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,  
Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,  
Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,  
Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.  
whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.  
for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.  
and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English melody

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**\*DISMISSAL**

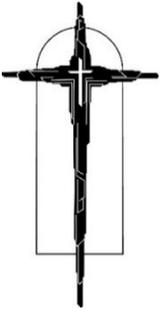
Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**\*POSTLUDE** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

arr. Schack

Shirley Newhart, organ



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 29	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, March 30	
Tuesday, March 31	
Wednesday, April 1	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARning Group 7:00 pm VOX CORDIUM
Thursday, April 2	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 pm Worship
Friday, April 3	GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 pm Worship
Saturday, April 4	

*Italics indicate outside group*

## MESSIAH OFFICE HOURS

*Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday-9:00 am to 4:00 pm*

*Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm*

*Wednesday-8:30 am to 11:30 am*

*Friday-Closed*

## ONLINE GIVING

Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to Messiah using the secure online portal at the website ([messiahsi.org](http://messiahsi.org)) and clicking on the Give tab. Another option to reach the portal is to scan this QR code using your smartphone's QR reader. This link may be used for paying for altar flowers and other church-related activities. Questions? Contact the Church Office.



If you would like to give the old-fashioned way, the offering plate is on the table as you exit the Sanctuary.



# THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Director, Faith Formation	Ken Ritz
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Yehiel Curry
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Lynnetta Hartson and Janet Reardon
Reader	Ken Ritz
Evangelism Greeters	Amanda & David Ridberg
Ushers	Kathy Ritz and Greg Stinson
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread, Lynn McLauchlan, and Greg Stinson
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Pam Allen (Host) Milda Blaney (Treats)

## MILESTONES THIS WEEK

*Birthdays: Sandra Wade 03/30*

*Anniversaries: Alison & John McVeigh 04/04*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **HOLY WEEK AT MESSIAH**

### **Palm Sunday**

**March 29 at 9:00 am**

We begin Holy Week by remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. With palm branches and joyful procession, we join the crowds who welcomed him with shouts of "Hosanna!" This service focuses on celebration and anticipation, marking the beginning of the journey that leads to the cross and resurrection.

### **Maundy Thursday**

**April 2 at 7:00 pm**

The sacred Triduum—the three days of Holy Week—begins as we commemorate the Last Supper. We remember how Jesus washed the disciples' feet and gave us the gift of Holy Communion. This service includes a dramatic re-enactment of the Last Supper and concludes with the solemn stripping of the altar, reflecting the betrayal and abandonment of Christ on the night of his arrest.

### **Good Friday**

**April 3, at 7:00 pm**

In this Tenebrae ("shadows") service, we remember the crucifixion through the Seven Last Words from the Cross. The service is intentionally austere, with no decorations or paraments—only the altar and candles—drawing us into the depth and solemnity of the day.

### **Easter Sunday**

**April 5 at 9:00 am**

We gather to celebrate the Good News of the resurrection with lilies, joyful alleluias and joyful music. Together we proclaim the victory of the risen Christ over death and the promise

of new life for all. A special Easter brunch follows.

## **NEW ASSISTIVE LISTENING**

To support our goal of making worship accessible to everyone, Auracast™ assistive listening technology is now available in the Sanctuary. It provides clearer sound for those who may have difficulty hearing in large spaces. This new service allows audio from the worship service to stream directly to compatible hearing aids, earbuds, or smartphones using Bluetooth LE Audio.

To use the Auracast technology during worship:

- Turn on Bluetooth on your phone or compatible hearing device.
- Select the broadcast titled "Messiah Lutheran Worship Audio."
- The service audio will stream directly to your hearing aids or device.

If your device does not support Auracast, the assistive listening receivers are still available on the Narthex console table. If you have questions or need help connecting, contact the Church Office or speak to Rick Tallon or Ken McLauchlan.

## **WOMEN'S RETREAT-FINAL PLANS**

**May 15-17, 2026**

### **Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simons Island**

Karen Scheib will lead the sessions focused on the theme "Our Story and God's Story," which will feature examination of participants' own life stories and how God's story intersects with their stories. There will be creative exercises, written reflections, small group discussions,

and crafts. The retreat will also include free time to explore the Center and the island. The Parish Life Ministry will provide \$50 per person to help defray the cost. This means that the total cost will be \$250 per person for each shared hotel-like room with 2 queen beds and a balcony overlooking the river. Price includes 6 meals. Cost of a private room is \$380 for the 2 nights.

**If you submitted a deposit, the balance is due no later than Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.**

That is \$200 for a shared room and \$330 for a private room. You can pay the balance by writing a check and note Women's Retreat on memo line. You can also pay by credit card online at Messiah's website (messiahsi.org). If you want to pay online, contact Sandy Cooper in the Church Office (912.598.1188; messiahsk@gmail.com) for details.

Need more information? Want to sign up now? There are registration forms on the Narthex Kiosk. Have questions? Contact Parish Life Chair Gayle Denny (513.604.0764).

**KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY  
Please Help**

On April 16-19, a team of 26 Kairos volunteers will return to Emanuel Women's Facility in Swainsboro, Georgia. Kairos means "God's Special Time". The purpose of this program is to establish a Kairos Community inside this prison by the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. This Kairos Team will spend 3 ½ days with the residents sharing God's love for them.

**Here Is How You Can Participate**

- **Pray for us:** Be a part of the Prayer Chain. This is vital...without prayer this weekend cannot happen. There will be a sign-up sheet and suggested prayers on the Kairos Table in the Fellowship Hall for the next four Sundays.
- **Donate:** All Kairos activities are funded by donations. One way to help is to buy meal tickets for the participants. A \$5 donation is suggested, but any amount will be helpful. The residents will see that someone they did not know was thinking about them and paid for their meal.
- **Color Placemats:** These placemats are used for each meal to brighten their mealtime during the weekend. The residents are thrilled to see that someone has taken the time to brighten their day.

Please stop by the table in the Peper Hall to participate in this worthwhile mission. You may also contact Pat Cooper (912.508.4250).

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY UPDATE**

The group is completing its current study of Revelation on Monday, March 23. They will not meet on March 30 and April 6 and will resume meeting on April 13. The new study will be *I Know His Name: A Bible Study on the Names of God*.

The Women's Bible Study meets on Mondays at 10:00 am in Messiah's Conference Room. For more information about the meetings, contact Randi VenHuizen (randiv1026@gmail.com; 402.216.3067).

## THE ARTS AT MESSIAH

Here is the schedule for this Summer's concerts. Mark your calendar now for this exciting lineup of guest artists! All concerts are on Friday evenings starting at 7:00 pm

- May 8-Derek Hartman, pianist
- June 12-Ethel Trujillo, soprano, and José Meléndez, pianist
- July 10 (Young Artist Concert)-William Ge, pianist
- August 14-Russell Iceberg, violinist, and Anthony Ratinov, pianist

## EASTER LILIES & CALADIUMS 2026

**Deadline: March 30**

Lent is here, and Easter will soon follow. To celebrate Easter, Messiah's Sanctuary will be brimming with Easter lilies and caladiums. We invite you to give a lily or caladium in honor or memory of a loved one. The dedications will be

listed in the Easter bulletin. The cost is \$14 per plant. To order, please pick up an envelope from the stand next to the entrance to the Sanctuary or from the table in the Narthex, fill in the form, enclose your check, and return it to the Church Office or in the offering plate by Monday, March 30.

You can skip the envelope and go to the Give tab at [messiahsi.org](http://messiahsi.org). Fill out the form—and you are done! For the fund, click Flowers: Easter & Christmas; use the message box to indicate how many Easter lilies or Caladiums you want and your dedications(s) In Memory of, In Honor of, or To the Glory of God.(Call the Church Office if you have questions.)

## SERMON PREVIEW

Palm Sunday is this week, and we hear the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from Matthew 21, an occasion filled with acclaim, hope, and expectation. The crowd lines up shouting "Hosanna," welcoming Jesus as a king, a deliverer, the one they have been waiting for, waving palm branches in his honor. It is a scene full of energy and promise, when everything seems clear and full of possibility.

And yet, even amid that acclaim, there is a deeper question: *Who is this?* The hopes of the crowd are real but so are their assumptions. This Sunday invites us to stand with them, to hear their hopes echo our own, and to consider what kind of king Jesus truly is as he enters not just Jerusalem but our lives.

Questions for Reflection: Where do you find yourself joining the crowd's acclaim—saying the right words about Jesus—but not yet fully understanding who he is? What hopes do you carry into this Holy Week? What are you longing for Jesus to do in your life right now? How might your expectations of Jesus shape—or limit—what you are able to see about him? The crowd asks, "Who is this?" How would you answer that question today, not in theory but through your lived experience?

# CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

**Jason Talsness, Pastor**

770.570.7407

[skidawaypastorj@gmail.com](mailto:skidawaypastorj@gmail.com)

**Randi VenHuizen (2028)**

**Vice President**

Education & Discipleship Ministry

402.216.3067

[Randiv1026@gmail.com](mailto:Randiv1026@gmail.com)

**Claire Cornwell-Williams (2028)**

**President**

Evangelism Ministry

912.658.4114

[cwilliams17@comcast.net](mailto:cwilliams17@comcast.net)

Vacant

Finance Ministry

**Lisa Oswald (2026)**

**Secretary**

Outreach Ministry

203.554.5845

[laoswald@icloud.com](mailto:laoswald@icloud.com)

**Gayle Denny (2026)**

Parish Life Ministry

513.604.0764

[gdgardener@comcast.net](mailto:gdgardener@comcast.net)

**Rick Tallon (2028)**

Property Ministry

417.294.2002

[rick.tallon@gmail.com](mailto:rick.tallon@gmail.com)

**Greg Stinson (2026/2027)<sup>1</sup>**

Staff Support/Mutual Ministry

912.704.4084

[gtstinson@comcast.net](mailto:gtstinson@comcast.net)

**George Lawrence (2026/2028)<sup>2</sup>**

Stewardship Ministry

912.484.2818

[mppgg13@gmail.com](mailto:mppgg13@gmail.com)

**Parker Pearson (no term)**

**Treasurer**

410.349.7704

[parkpear@aol.com](mailto:parkpear@aol.com)

**Pat Cooper (2027)**

Worship & Music Ministry

912.508.4250

[cooperpat5@gmail.com](mailto:cooperpat5@gmail.com)

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<sup>1</sup> Greg Stinson is serving the second year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.

<sup>2</sup> George Lawrence is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2028.