

Firelands Presbyterian Church

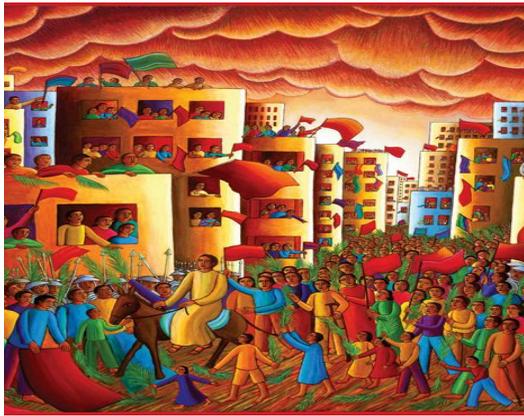
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John August Swanson



Palm Sunday Procession, Honduras

March 29, 2026

Welcome to Firelands Church, a community of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit, growing together in Christ, and committed to serving God. Everyone is encouraged to stay for fellowship following the worship service.

The Order Of The Liturgy

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Prelude

Abba, Father North

Will You Come and Follow Me

arr. Walz

Crown Him with Many Crowns

arr. Pethel

Jen Daniel, French Horn

*Call to Worship: Psalm 118:1-2, 19- (*responsively*)

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*Hymn 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Call to Confession: Have mercy, Christ, have mercy on all that trust in You, for You are God in glory to all eternity.

Prayer of Confession *(together)*

Holy Spirit of gentleness and of peace, we hear the ancient words of the prophet, “Behold, Your king is coming to You.” His entry into Jerusalem reads as if it is just a good story from long ago, filled with drama and pathos, complete with the happy ending of Easter morning. But unlike the crowds and children who shouted “Hosanna,” we hesitate to lift our voices. We know there is a crucifixion this week in the life of Jesus. Forgive us for our unwillingness to accept that Jesus comes with power and authority in the robes of simplicity and humility. We have come again this morning, or perhaps for the first time, to open the “city gate” of our lives that He may enter in. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Hymn 71, refrain only *(together)*

Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

Prayer of Illumination *(together)* **God of our salvation, we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came in your name and turned the lonely way of**

rejection and death into triumph. Grant us the steadfast faith to enter the gates of righteousness, that we may receive grace to become worthy citizens of your holy realm. Amen.

First Lesson: Zechariah 9: 9 - 12

Anthem *Once Upon a Tree* Choplin
Serendipity Ladies Ensemble

The Gospel: Matthew 21: 1 - 11

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: He Comes for the Hopeful and the Fearful

*Affirmation of Faith: **Confession of 1967, Section B. The Love of God**

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals His love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of His love. God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of His dealings with humanity. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

*Hymn 198 *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

Presentation of Our Gifts, Offerings, and Thanksgivings

Doxology - Hymn 606 (*tune*)

***Praise God when face to face we see the one who died to set us free.
The one who rose in victory. Praise now forever Christ the King***

Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Communion Invitation

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.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In Jesus, born of Mary, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and

truth. He lived as one of us, knowing joy and sorrow. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, opened blind eyes, broke bread with outcasts and sinners, and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and needy. Dying on the cross, he gave himself for the life of the world. Rising from the grave, he won for us victory over death. Seated at your right hand, he leads us to eternal life. We praise you that Christ now reigns with you in glory, and will come again to make all things new. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that he leads us to eternal life. We praise you that Christ now reigns with you in glory, and will come again to make all things new.

The Words of the Institution of the Lord's Supper

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Communion Meditation Wondrous deSilva

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn 197 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

*Charge and Benediction

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the suffering;

honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

*Benediction Response (*together*) #826 Lift High the Cross

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.
 So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory.
 Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name

*Postlude All Hail King Jesus arr. Pethel



Prayer Concerns

Rob & Cindy Constien, Garrett Holcomb, Bill & Pat Sharp, Former Pastor Mark & Jill Cooper, Gene Bailey, Karla Hoffman, Mason Fenton (improved after brain tumor surgery but loss of vision), Flona & Eric Pott, Karen Dietz, Anne Trombatore, Linda Holcomb's sisters, Lois & Carol.

This Week at Firelands

Today 3/29 Palm Sunday	9:30 am ADULT Sunday School 10:30 Worship followed by Fellowship. Assisting in Worship are Susan Rogers (reader), and Ed & Shirley Carlson (Communion servers) 3:30 pm Musical Arts Gene Waldron Double Bass Concert
Monday	10:00am - 1:00pm Sewing Group
Tuesday	10:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours
Wednesday	10:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours 10:30pm - 11:30pm Lenten Study: The Psalms
Thursday	10:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours Cleaning Service 2:00pm - 3:30pm "I am Israel, pt 2"- study & fellowship 4:00pm - 5:00pm Maundy Thursday with Communion
Friday	7:00 pm Good Friday Service at Trinity United Methodist Church
Next Sunday 4/5 Easter!	9:30 AM ADULT Sunday School 10:30 Worship followed by Fellowship. Scheduled to assist in worship are Susan Rogers (reader), and Dave and Sally Wahlers (Communion servers)