

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026



PALM SUNDAY EXPLAINED

On this holy morning, we remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. He crosses the Kidron Valley to enter the city. As he goes, he is praised by the crowd as the heir to King David. Expectations are so high few could imagine what would befall Jesus just five days later. Our readings this morning follow St. Luke's telling of Jesus' last days. The responsorial psalm was written 600 years before Jesus was born, yet it speaks clearly to Jesus' experience. The Passion reading transports us into Jesus' last day. In Holy Communion we remember the one who lovingly suffered to open wide the doors of God's Kingdom.

Rector: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik
Cell: 203-641-2068
Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan
Mr. Josh Dulin, Minister of Music
115 South Main Street, Mt Clemens, MI 48043
Office 586-465-4573
Email: gracemtclemens@yahoo.com
Visit us on the web at
www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

When all are gathered in the parish hall:

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.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

"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."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

RESPONSE Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 – *Confitemini Domino*

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;*
his mercy endures for ever.

²Let Israel now proclaim,*
"His mercy endures for ever."

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

²⁰"This is the gate of the Lord;*
he who is righteous may enter."

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

²²The same stone which the builders rejected*
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is the Lord's doing,*
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴On this day the Lord has acted;*
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Hosannah, Lord, hosannah!*
Lord, send us now success.

²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;*
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;*
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸"You are my God, and I will thank you;*
you are my God, and I will exalt you."

²⁹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;*
his mercy endures for ever.



BLESSING OF THE PALMS AND PEOPLE

Celebrant May God be with you.
People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant continues:

It is right to praise you Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

Bless these branches to be for us signs of his victory and bless all of us who bear these palms in his name so that we may ever hail him as our King and follow him in our daily lives in the way that leads to eternal life. We ask all these things in your most Holy Name. **AMEN.**

Celebrant Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL SONG: Ride On, Jesus, Ride



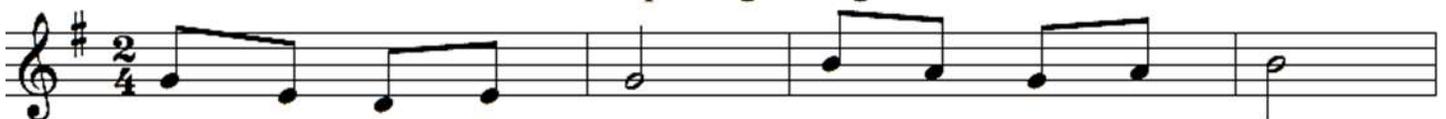
1. 7 "Bless - ings on the Ho - ly One!" Ride on, Je - sus,
2. 7 Ride so hum - ble, ride so true, Ride on, Je - sus,
3. 7 Ride to set your peo - ple free, Ride on, Je - sus,
4. 7 Ride o - be - dient un - to death, Ride on, Je - sus,
5. 7 Ride a - gain in the hearts of us, Ride on, Je - sus,
6. 7 Now be - yond all time and space, Ride on, Je - sus,



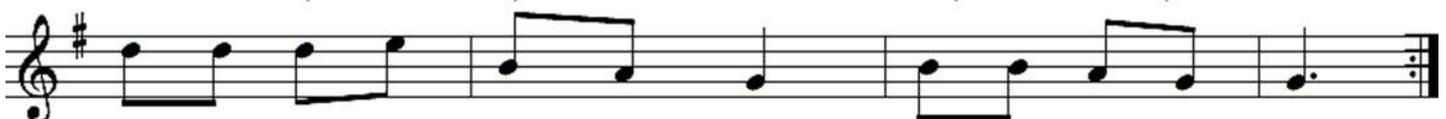
ride. 7 "Bless - ings on the Sav - ing One!"
ride. 7 Ride to bring the world to you,
ride. 7 Ride the road to Cal - va - ry, *Ride on, Je - sus,
ride. 7 Ride to break the chains of death,
ride. 7 Ride a - gain in the hands of us,
ride. 7 Now in ev - 'ry land and race,



ride. Ride on, Je - sus, con - quering King. Ride on, Je - sus ride.



Ride on, Je - sus, ride. Ride on, Je - sus, ride.



Ride on, Je - sus, con - quering King, Ride on, Je - sus ride.

When the procession reaches the vestibule, we sing:

OPENING HYMN: All Glory, Laud, And Honor

Please stand as you are able



1-5. All glo-ry, laud, and hon - or To you, Re-deem-er King!



1-5. To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho-san-nas ring.



1. You are the King of Is - ra - el, And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels Are prais - ing you on high;
3. The peo - ple of the He - brews 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,



1. Now in the Lord's Name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
2. And mor - tals, joined with all _ things Cre - a - ted, make re - ply.
3. Our praise and prayers and an - thems Be - fore you we pre - sent.
4. To you, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
5. Great source of love and good - ness, Our Sav - ior and our King.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

*This Week's Readers: **Ann Farrell & Dave Farrell***
*Maundy Thursday (6 PM): **Ann Farrell & Dave Farrell***
*Good Friday (12 noon): **Selia Tuten & Lucia Smith***
*Easter Sunday: **Scot Lau & Lydia Reed***

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

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.

The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

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.

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;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE Psalm 31:9-16 – *In te, Domine, speravi*

⁹Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;*

**my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.**

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

¹¹I 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.

¹²I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;*
I am as useless as a broken pot.

¹³For 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.**

¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.*
I have said, "You are my God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand;*
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant,*
and in your loving-kindness save me."

SECOND READING Philippians 2:5-11

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

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

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

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

and 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.

GOSPEL Matthew 26:14-27:66

Celebrant The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Narrator One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

Judas "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?"

Narrator They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

Disciples "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

Narrator He said,

Jesus "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.'"

Narrator So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

Jesus "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

Narrator And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

Disciples "Surely not I, Lord?"

Narrator He answered,

Jesus "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 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."

Narrator Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

Narrator He replied,

Jesus "You have said so."

Narrator While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus "Take, eat; this is my body."

Narrator Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 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."

Narrator When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus "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.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

Narrator Peter said to him,

Peter "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

Narrator Jesus said to him,

Jesus "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

Narrator Peter said to him,

Peter "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

Narrator And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

Jesus "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Narrator He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

Jesus "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

Narrator And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

Narrator Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Narrator Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

Jesus "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

Narrator Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus "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. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Narrator 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. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

Narrator At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Judas "Greetings, Rabbi!"

Narrator and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

Jesus "Friend, do what you are here to do."

Narrator Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. 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. Then Jesus said to him,

Jesus "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

Narrator At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

Jesus "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. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

Narrator Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. 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. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

Accusers "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

Narrator The high priest stood up and said,

High Priest "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

Narrator But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

High Priest "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

Narrator Jesus said to him,

Jesus "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.”

Narrator Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?”

Narrator They answered,

Chief Priests “He deserves death.”

Narrator Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

Chief Priests “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

Narrator Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

Servant Girl “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”

Narrator But he denied it before all of them, saying,

Peter “I do not know what you are talking about.”

Narrator When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

Servant Girl This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Narrator Again he denied it with an oath,

Peter “I do not know the man.”

Narrator After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

Bystander Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”

Narrator Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter “I do not know the man!”

Narrator At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

Jesus “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

Narrator And he went out and wept bitterly.

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

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. He said,

Judas “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”

Narrator But they said,

Chief Priests “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”

Narrator Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

Chief Priests "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

Narrator After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 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, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Narrator Jesus said,

Jesus "You say so."

Narrator But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

Narrator But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

Narrator For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

Pilate's Wife "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

Narrator Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Pilate "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

Narrator And they said,

Congregation **"Barabbas."**

Narrator Pilate said to them,

Pilate "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

Narrator All of them said,

Congregation **"Let him be crucified!"**

Narrator Then he asked,

Pilate "Why, what evil has he done?"

Narrator But they shouted all the more,

Congregation **"Let him be crucified!"**

Narrator 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,

Pilate "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

Narrator Then the people as a whole answered,

Congregation **"His blood be on us and on our children!"**

Narrator So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 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,

Soldiers "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Narrator They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

(At the mention of Golgotha, the congregation should stand and remain standing for the remainder of the reading.)

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

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Bystanders "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."

Narrator In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

Chief Priests "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. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

Narrator The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

Narrator that is,

Jesus "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Narrator When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Bystanders "This man is calling for Elijah."

Narrator 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. But the others said,

Bystanders "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

Narrator Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 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,

Centurion "Truly this man was God's Son!"

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

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth 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. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

Chief Priests "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' 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."

Narrator Pilate said to them,

Pilate "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

Narrator So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Please be seated

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand as you are able

*This is an ancient baptismal creed, but using the words "I give my heart,"
a truer translation of the Latin word "credo" than "I believe."*

I give my heart to God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I give my heart to 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, and 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 give my heart to the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader During this Lenten season of self-examination, repentance, fasting, prayer, self-denial, and almsgiving, we offer our prayers to God, saying:

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray for the Christian church of God throughout the world, that all its members may turn to the Lord and keep a holy Lent.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray for the people of Iran at this time of fear and uncertainty. May God's love be with the most vulnerable as hardship and retaliation follow in the wake of these ongoing attacks.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray for our nation in a time of crisis, and continue to keep in our prayers the families of all those slain by ICE. May all who serve in immigration enforcement honor the dignity of every person they encounter.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray for the victims of warfare and unrest, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan, Haiti, the Congo, and Venezuela, and for refugees around the world, that their mourning may be turned into joy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray for the nations of the world, that those in authority will hear, see, and feel the love of God in their lives; may they work toward peace and reconciliation with all people and countries.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray for all who are persecuted, shunned, neglected, or attacked because of racism, fear, or anti-immigrant sentiment, and we pray for an end to this type of violence and behavior.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray for all who are in need of a safe place to live, for those who need food on the table, and for those who need protection and companionship.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray for all people suffering with physical, emotional, and mental illness, as well as their families and caretakers; we pray too for those who are grieving, and for those who have died.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray for the special needs and concerns of our Grace family, and for those on our prayer list. Are there others?

Bless, comfort, and protect all those for whom we pray.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray for the children in our lives and in our world: Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader Grant us for the love of you to make no peace with oppression, to fear no adversity, and to have no tolerance for those who would use their power to abuse or exploit.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

People **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Celebrant:

God our creator, you are constantly and unconditionally loving us even when we stray from you. Hear our prayers and guide us into the way of your peace. **AMEN.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated



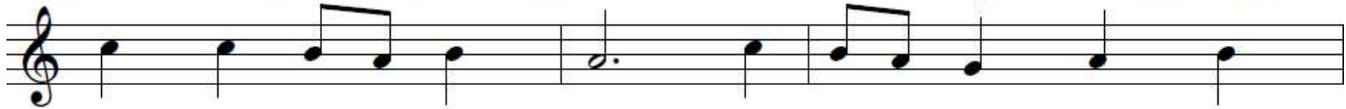
OFFERTORY HYMN: O Sacred Head Surrounded



1. O Sa - cred Head sur - round - ed By crown of pierc - ing
2. I see your strength and vig - or All fad - ing in the
3. In this, your bit - ter pas - sion, Good Shep - herd, think of



thorn! O bleed - ing Head, so wound - ed, Re -
strife, And death with cru - el rig - or, Be -
me With your most sweet com - pas - sion, Un -



viled and put to scorn! The pow'r of death comes
reav - ing you of life; O ag - o - ny and
worth - y though I be: Be - neath your cross a -



o'er you, The glow of life de - cays, Yet
dy - ing! O love to sin - ners free! Je -
bid - ing For ev - er would I rest, In



an - gel hosts a - dore you, And trem - ble as they gaze.
sus, all grace sup - ply - ing, O turn your face on me.
your dear love con - fid - ing, And with your pres - ence blest.

DOXOLOGY

Please stand as you are able



1. Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him all



crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye



heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to our God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues:

It is truly right to glorify you, God, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho-ly Lord God of
hosts. Heav - en and earth are full, full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san -
na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes, comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san -
na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant continues:

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again, you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

For you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. He lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose, he gave himself up to death; and rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

On the night before he died, while he was at supper with his friends, he 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."

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, our God.

Celebrant continues:

We pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

For it is through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, that all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant says:

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

Our Father in heaven, holy is your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN.

FRACTION: Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread to-gether on our knees; Let us break
 bread to-gether on our knees; When I fall on my knees,
 With my face to the ris-ing sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Celebrant The Gifts of God, for all of us, the holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

Please be seated

Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION HYMN: Were You There?

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? _____ Were you
 2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? _____ Were you
 3. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? _____ Were you

1. there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? _____ O _____
 2. there when they nailed him to the tree? _____ O _____
 3. there when they laid him in the tomb? _____ O _____

1.-3. Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble.

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? _____
 2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? _____
 3. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? _____

CHOIR SELECTION: Listen For The Voice Of The Spirit

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant Let us pray together our post-Communion prayer.

Celebrant and People say together:

During Lent we ask you, O God, to renew us. With a gentle breath, blow from our lives the dust of sin, and make us your people again. Lift us from guilt, and shame, and regret, to repair all we've broken, and give us the gift of repentance. With the lengthening days, stretch our hearts as well, to be ready at Easter for your risen life in us. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

BLESSING

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. And may the blessing of God Almighty—God our Creator, God our Redeemer, and God our Sanctifier—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**

CLOSING HYMN: Abide With Me!



1. A - bide with me! fast falls the e - ven - tide;
2. I need your pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3. I fear no foe with you at hand to bless;
4. Hold then your cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



1. The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide;
2. What but your grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
3. Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
4. Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies!



1. When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
2. Who like your - self my guide and strength can be?
3. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
4. Heav'n's morn - ing breaks and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

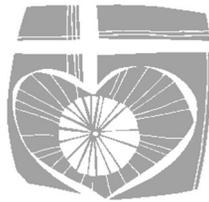


1. Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me!
2. Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me!
3. I tri - umph still, if you a - bide with me!
4. In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me!

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth renewed for the Lenten journey with our eyes fixed upon Jesus and his walk to Jerusalem, where he will be crucified and raised from the dead!

People Thanks be to God.



The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Martha Wehba; Holly Quintero; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Gheri; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Leo Bradley, Jr.; Betty Brogan; Paige Biehl; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Vickie Rose; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Randy; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Tom Burns; Steve Burns; Brenden Murphy and family; the Domienik family; Michael Oakley; Betty Moore; Sandy Krell; Bobby Coutts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffey; Frank Davis; Jerry Gardner; Shelly Volpe.

Do you know someone who can use our prayers?

Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.

The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, in person & online 8:30 & 10:30 AM. Visit our website for more information.
Bible Study: Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Guild Room

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Community Suppers:

Wednesdays at 4:00

Sunday Suppers: Sundays at 4:00, November-March

Food Pantry:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 AM-12 noon, curbside pickup
Serving from 250-500 people every month

Fueling Kids' Futures:

Tuesdays at 11:30 AM at Oakley Industries, Inc. Plant 4
35088 Automation Drive, Clinton Township, MI 48035
No packing this Tuesday, March 29

**All outreach ministries welcome volunteers,
financial donations, or food and clothing donations.**

***Call the office to learn about helping or giving:
586-465-4573***

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send all bulletin submissions to bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

CHOIR

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

LENTEN STUDY SERIES

The first part of our Lenten Study Series is watching and discussing Season 5 of "The Chosen." We'll be watching the final episode this **Tuesday** at **6:30 PM** in the Guild Room. This season focuses on the triumphal Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem and goes through all of the Holy Week events.

The second component focuses on a discussion of white Christian nationalism; our final meeting is **today** at **noon**. We'll explore readings from *The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism* by Carter Heyward. Participate in one or both activities for lively discussion as we prepare for Easter.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AT AMERICAN LUTHERAN

Meet in ALC's Fellowship Hall at **5:30 PM** on **Wednesdays** in Lent to share homemade soups, crackers, bread, and cookies, followed by a Lenten service at **6:30 PM**. This year's theme for Lenten services is "Prayer Around the World."

If you'd like to contribute a favorite soup or a batch of cookies, plan on making between 20-25 servings of soup and/or about 2 dozen cookies. Please bring them to ALC by 5 PM that Wednesday. Contact Nancy Boeck at 248-703-0861 or Donna Pretzer at 586-549-2908 with any questions.

MORE ALC EVENTS

Please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the hallway for more info on upcoming and ongoing events at American Lutheran. There's a lot to choose from!

SAVE THE DATE: MUSICAL BINGO

Get ready for a fun night at church on **Saturday, April 25!** Doors open at **6 PM** and the fun begins at **7**. \$20 per person includes one bingo card and a Sloppy Joe dinner, with additional cards available for purchase. There'll be basket and 50/50 raffles, too. Contact Margaret Morgan at 313-657-9313 or Kristi Carpenter at 586-663-6246 to reserve a space or if you're interested in volunteering.

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be on **Thursday, May 14**, at Grace Church. At the last meeting we couldn't decide which book was next, so we ended up choosing two books! They are: *Hold Strong* by Robert Dugoni and *twice* by Mitch Albom. We hope to see you at the next meeting! If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Ann Strevel.

For Cuba Amid Darkness and Scarcity

Faithful **God**, our **sustainer** and **keeper** who does not abandon us in times of need, **we pray for** the people of **Cuba**. Amid the loss of light and the scarcity of food, water, and medicine, **uphold all** who suffer and **strengthen those who care** for others in hardship, especially **the Episcopal Church in Cuba** in its witness of compassion and presence. **Guard human dignity** where it is strained. **Sustain hope** where despair draws near. **Be with those who protest** and those who govern, that justice may be sought without violence. We ask **in remembrance of your call** to bear moral responsibility for the suffering of others. Through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.
