

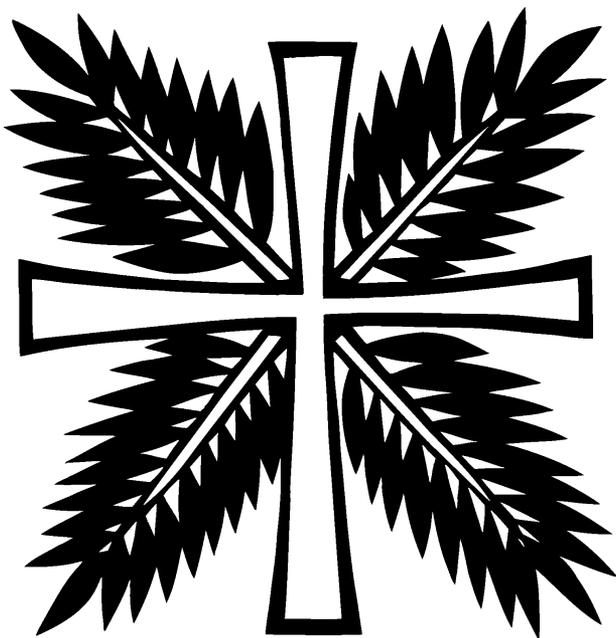
## Welcome to Worship

*Our Mission: To boldly live out our faith in Jesus through worship, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbor, here and around the world.*

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**Sunday, March 29, 2026 - 8:30 AM**

### **Palm/ Passion Sunday**



#### **Grace Lutheran Pastors, Staff, and Musicians**

**Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb:** Senior Pastor  
**Nicole Kolbe:** Office Administrator  
**Brad Anderson:** Maintenance  
**Jaime Core:** Youth Coordinator  
**Organist:** Sandy Ettesvold, Carol Madsen  
**Chancel Choir Director:** Joyce Jorgenson

**Rev. Cole McCormick:** Associate Pastor  
**Jane Reiman:** Finance Director  
**Travis Anderson:** Maintenance  
**Amber Hansen:** Open Door Meal Coordinator  
**Pianist:** Molly Bless  
**Praise Band:** Jen Kahler and Musicians

300 S. Grant Street, Fairmont, MN 56031 | [www.gracelutheranchurch.org](http://www.gracelutheranchurch.org) | 507-238-4418

*Please Note: Worship services are broadcast on local TV and online. Being in the Sanctuary implies consent to be on camera. If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit in the back rows or balcony. Communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

At Grace Lutheran, we believe in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality with an open table. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcome to meet Jesus at the table. Please ask your communion server if you prefer grape juice or a gluten free communion kit. The ushers will direct you to the front for communion or you may receive communion in your pew. Jesus invites all to come and be fed, forgiven, and free!

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## **Prelude and Bell Ringing**

### **Welcome and Offering of Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Welcome to Worship!

## **Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

*Hosanna*  
Furman/Courtney

**Chancel Choir**

### **Blessing of the Palms**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. 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.

**C: Amen.**

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Hosanna in the highest!**

*The procession into the church begins, the congregation following the pastors, as the hymn is sung by all.*

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✠ *The congregation is invited to stand as you are able.*

**Processional Song***All Glory, Laud, and Honor***#344**

## Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

- 1 You are the king of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*
- 2 The company of angels  
are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals  
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*
- 3 The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present. *Refrain*
- 4 To you, before your passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. *Refrain*
- 5 Their praises you accepted;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

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

**C:** **Hosanna in the highest!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

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. Amen.

### **Opening Reading: Matthew 21:1-11**

<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 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.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Song of Praise****“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”**

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,  
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang,  
 the vic - tory palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.  
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven, our King,

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,  
 The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,  
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.  
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

**Children's Message (Sing)*****Deep and Wide***

Deep and wide, deep and wide  
 There's a fountain flowing deep and wide  
 Deep and wide, deep and wide  
 There's a fountain flowing deep and wide

**Gospel Acclamation****p.151b**

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel Lesson: Matthew 27:11-55****Pastor Cole**

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

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.<sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas.<sup>17</sup> 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?"<sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.<sup>19</sup> 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."<sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.<sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."<sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!"<sup>23</sup> Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

## Pastor Allison

<sup>24</sup> 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.” <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

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

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

<sup>38</sup> Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> 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.” <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> “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. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ” <sup>44</sup> The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. <sup>55</sup> Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him.

## **Pastor Cole**

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> 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?" <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup> 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. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> 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!" <sup>55</sup> Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him.

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

## **Sermon**

**Pastor Cole McCormick**

**Hymn of the Day**     *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*     #358  
v. 1, 3, 5

## **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 the Church**

P: Hear us, O God...

C: ... your mercy is great.

### **Offering**

*Blessing*

**Chancel Choir**

**Furman/ Courtney**

### **Offering Prayer**

O God, **maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Holy Communion**

#### **Words of Institution**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Jesus. Praise to you for your Holy Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying; This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!**

P: O God of resurrection and new life; pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C: Come Holy Spirit.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C: Come Holy Spirit.**

P: With all your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with the sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### 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**

**Lamb of God**

**p.154**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace,  
grant us peace.

**Communion Hymn**

*Lamb of God*

**#336**

**Prayer after Communion**

**P:** God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Blessing**

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

**All: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

**#338**

**Sending**

**P:** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

