

# WE are **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)**

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## **WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY.**

We welcome all visitors this morning to our service of Word and Sacrament.

ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God's gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.

# Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026

9:00am

*-Service of Word and Sacrament-*

*The Gathering*

## PRELUDE

## PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:1-11

### *Jesus enters Jerusalem*

1 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." 4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

5 "Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” 11 The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

OPENING HYMN: ELW 344 *“ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR”*

*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,

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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
 who forgives all our sin,  
 whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
 and blots out all offenses.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

Gracious God,  
 have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.  
 For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
 Gracious God,  
 have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.  
 For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
 Gracious God,  
 have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.  
 For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,  
and for disdainful the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,  
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:  
Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.  
Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,  
and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

## KYRIE ELW 154

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

The image shows a musical score for a Kyrie. It consists of two staves: a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), indicating G major. The vocal line has lyrics: "Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy." The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

## PASTORAL GREETING

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**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.**

*[Congregation is seated.]*

## The Word

**GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-54**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 27<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. 17 So

after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” 18 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. 19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” 20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21 The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” 22 Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” 23 Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

24 So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” 25 Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” 26 So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 30 They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

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

38 Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” 41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 42 “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ” 44 The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

45 From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46 And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 47 When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” 48 At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it

on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. 49 But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” 50 Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. 53 After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54 Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

## REQUIEM by JOHN RUTTER

*Requiem Aeternam*

*Out of the Deep*

*Pie Jesu*

*Sanctus*

*Agnus Die*

*The Lord Is My Shepherd*

*(during this time, we receive our offerings)*

*Lux Aeterna*

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

*The Meal*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

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.**

**[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE]**

**P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

on the night before he died...

Again, after supper ...

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,  
We lift this bread and cup before you,  
Giving you thanks that you have made us worthy  
To stand before you and as your priestly people.

And we ask you:  
send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you  
through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him, **all glory and honor is yours,**  
**Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,**  
**in your holy Church both now and forever. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**LAMB OF GOD**

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 HYMNS: ELW 500 "NOW WE REMAIN"

*Refrain*



We hold the death of the Lord deep in our hearts.



Liv-ing, now we re-main with Je-sus the Christ.



1 Once we were peo-ple a - fraid, lost in the night. Then by your



cross we were saved; dead be-came liv-ing, life from your giv-ing.



2 Some-thing that we have known, some-thing we've touched, what we have



seen with our eyes, this we have heard: life-giv-ing Word.



3 He chose to give of him - self, be-came our bread; bro-ken,



that we might live; love be-yond love, pain for our pain.



4 We are the pres-ence of God; this is our call;



now to be - come bread and wine, food for the hun - gry, life for the



wea - ry; for to live with the Lord, we must die with the Lord.

ELW 353 "WERE YOU THERE"



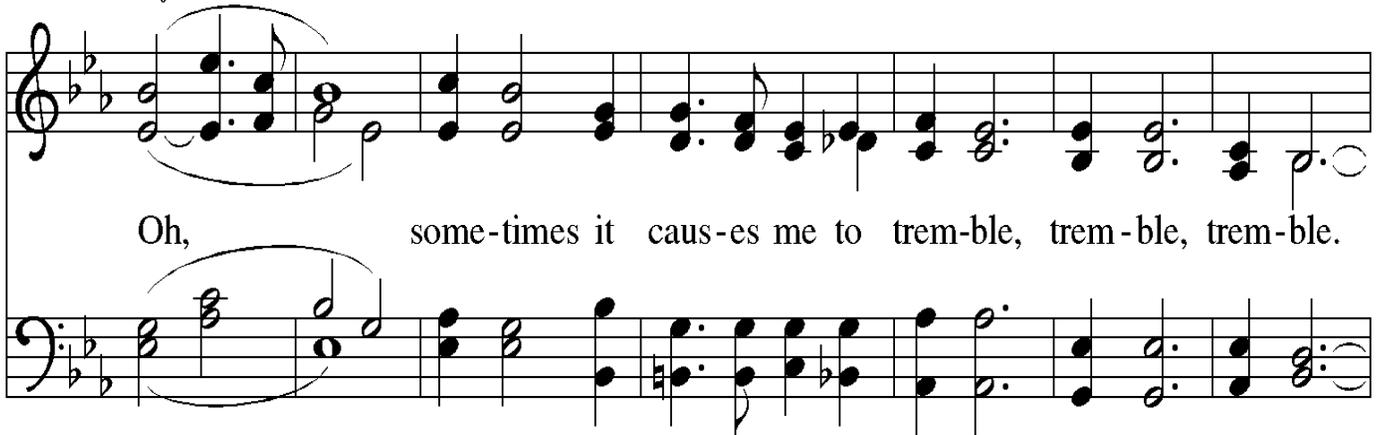
1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?



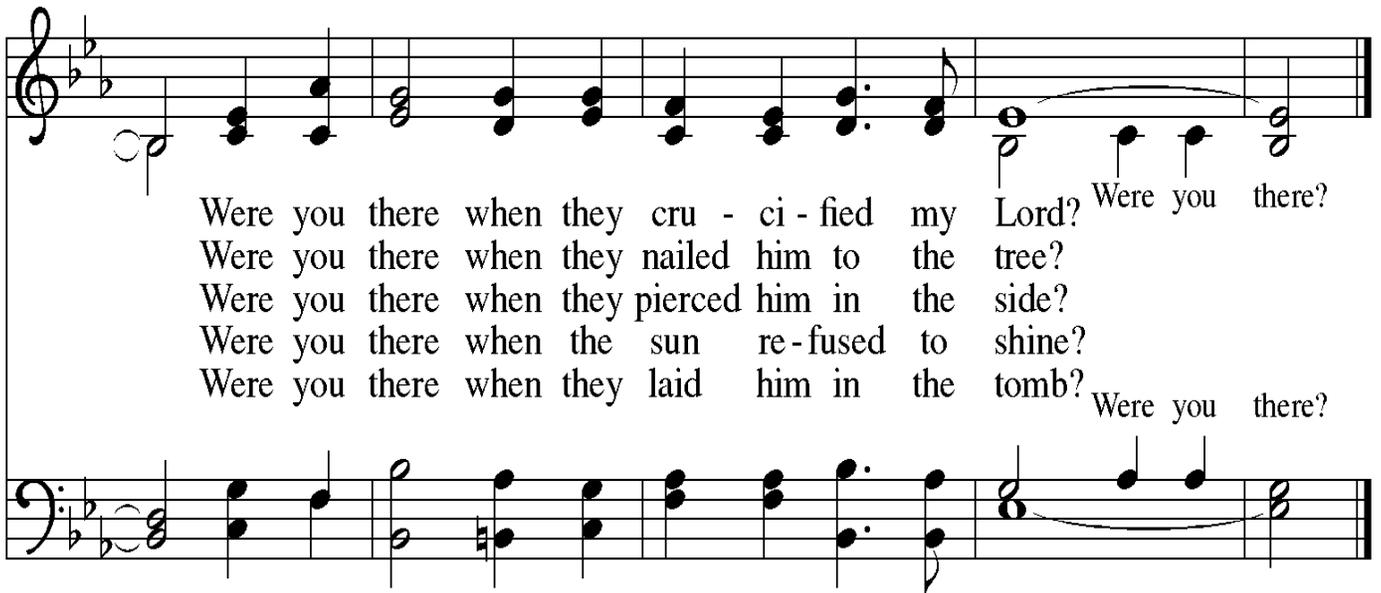
Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?



*Refrain*



Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

**PASTORAL BLESSING**

**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. Amen.

*The Sending*

**BENEDICTION:**

**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. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: ELW 616 "JESUS, REMEMBER ME"**

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 7/8 time signature. It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the top staff.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature as the first system. The melody and accompaniment continue across these staves. The lyrics are repeated below the top staff.

**DISMISSAL:**

**P** Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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