

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN**  
**507-896-3102**

**Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion/FB**  
**March 29, 2026**



**Monday:**

**Tuesday:**

**Wednesday:**

**Thursday:** 6:30 Maundy Thursday Worship

**Friday:** Pastor's Day Off

**Saturday:**

**Sunday:** 7:00 am/9:30 am Easter Sunday Worship Service w/Holy  
Communion/Noisy Offering Collection/FB (9:30)  
Easter Breakfast served between services  
No Classes

*Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.*

## Prelude

## Ringling of the Church Bell

## Announcements

### Gathering Song: ELW #344 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" vs 1,2,3&5

(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. **R**

2 The company of angels  
are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals  
in chorus make reply. **R**

3 The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present. **R**

5 Their praises you accepted;  
accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious King. **R**

### Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

<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? R: The Word of the Lord.      C: **Thanks be to God.**

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

<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.

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

<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.

<sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;**

**I am as useless as a broken pot.**

<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.

<sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.**

**I have said, "You are my God.**

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine upon your servant;**

**save me in your steadfast love."**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Return to the Lord, your God,**

**for he is gracious and merciful,**

**slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,**

**and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Gospel: Matthew 27:11-23,26-31,45-50**

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

<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!"

<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>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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Dana Jackson**

## **Hymn of the Day ELW #353 “Were You There” vs 1,2,4&5**

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

## **Apostle’s Creed**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

**Prayers of Intercession:**

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

**Offering Collection**

**Offertory “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

**Words of Institution**

**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 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Congregation Response: All are welcome.*

**The Distribution (*Please sign the pew pad.*)**

**Communion Hymns: 471, 595, 608**

### **Sending Song: ELW #359 “Where Charity and Love Prevail” vs 1,3&5**

1 Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love we thus are bound.

as members of each body joined,  
in him we are made one.

3 Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;

5 Let us forgive each other's faults  
as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well  
in Christian gentleness.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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## **Thank You for helping with the service today:**

Organist: Gayle Smith

Choir Director: Jake Olson

Acolytes: Alivia Halvorson, Garret Reay

Reader: Jessica Boettger

Communion: Sherry Jergenson, Jessica Boettger, Claire Reay

Usher: Amelia Halvorson, Macy Jarchow, Duane Hegland

## **Announcements**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> Maundy Thursday** Worship at 6:30 p.m. with Holy Communion.

**Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday** Worship with Holy Communion/Noisy Offering 7:00 am & 9:30 am. Easter Breakfast served between services. Free will Offering. \*Egg donation may be brought to the church Monday-Thursday from 9 am-3 pm\*

**Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Pictures** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only. Please wear dress clothes and shoes as they will be visible in the photos. Students will wear a gown provided by the church. Photos are scheduled to be taken by Ross Himlie at 6pm.

**Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> Graduation Recognition.** Join us as the Seniors receive their Quilts during 9:30 am Worship followed by cake during coffee hour to celebrate.

**Sudsy Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>** Caring Collection we will be collecting dish soap, hand soap and laundry soap.

**Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Day at 9:30** during worship followed by reception with cake to celebrate our confirmands.

**Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> New Member Sunday** we welcome all those who wish to join our family here at Cross of Christ to come to our 9:30 am worship service. If you would be comfortable Pastor Dana will invite you forward during the worship service to acknowledge you and offering a blessing. Please email the church office at [cofc@acegroup.cc](mailto:cofc@acegroup.cc) if you can join us on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.