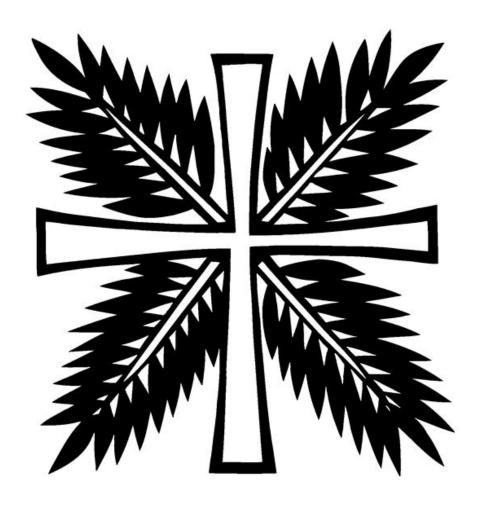


## PALM & PASSION SUNDAY March 24, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road Newtown PA 18940 215-497-0447 ascensionlutheranchurch.org

## WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

#### You are welcome here.

If you have a prayer request, please fill out the yellow prayer sheet found in your bulletin. Prayer sheets will be collected by the usher during the hymn of the day. Prayer requests will be collected from Zoom worshipers via the Zoom meeting's chat function. Prayer requests will be voiced by the pastor during the prayers of the people and added to the weekly prayer list circulated by email. All worshipers are welcome to receive Holy Communion, the body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for us.

## **Introduction to the Day**

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

## GATHERING: PROCESSION OF THE PALMS

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### **PRELUDE**

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

- P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C Hosanna in the highest.

CALL & RESPONSE | HOSANNA, HO!

## PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL | MARK 11:1-11

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' "They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks

on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood

## **BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

We praise, 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.

#### Amen.

- P Let us go forth in peace.
- C in the name of Christ. Amen

## PROCESSION OF THE PALMS | ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR



Text: The odulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

## ANTHEM | "HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST" by Nancy Gifford

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray:
- P 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.

## C Amen.

Please be seated.

# THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO MARK

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## **Speaking Parts:**

NARRATOR HIGH PRIEST
PEOPLE SERVANT GIRL
JESUS PILATE
PETER BYSTANDER
JUDAS CENTURIAN

The assembly will read in unison the part of the People, which is in bold type.

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**NARRATOR:** The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said:

Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.

**NARRATOR:** While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.

**NARRATOR:** And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

**JESUS:** Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

**NARRATOR:** Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him:

Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

**NARRATOR:** So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

**JESUS:** Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished, and ready. Make preparations for us there.

**NARRATOR:** So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

**JESUS:** Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

**NARRATOR:** They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them,

**JESUS:** It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For 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:** While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, grace it to them and said,

**JESUS:** Take; this is my body.

**NARRATOR:** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,

**JESUS:** This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

**NARRATOR:** When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

**JESUS:** You will all become deserters; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and sheep will be scattered." But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.

**NARRATOR:** Peter said to him,

**PETER:** Even though all become deserters, I will not.

**NARRATOR:** Jesus said to him,

**JESUS:** Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

**NARRATOR:** But he said vehemently,

**PETER:** Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

**NARRATOR:** And all of them said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples,

**JESUS:** Sit here while I pray.

**NARRATOR:** He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them,

**JESUS:** I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.

**NARRATOR:** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

**JESUS:** Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.

**NARRATOR:** He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

**JESUS:** Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed I willing, but the flesh is weak.

**NARRATOR:** And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes

were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

**JESUS:** Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

**NARRATOR:** Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

**JUDAS:** The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.

**NARRATOR:** So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

JUDAS: Rabbi!

**NARRATOR:** and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his eat. Then Jesus said to them,

**JESUS:** Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.

**NARRATOR:** All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him saying,

We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."

**NARRATOR:** But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

**HIGH PRIEST:** Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

**NARRATOR:** But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

**HIGH PRIEST:** Are the Messiah, the Song of the Blessed One?

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

**JESUS:** I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power," and "coming with the clouds of heaven."

**NARRATOR:** Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

**HIGH PRIEST:** Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?

**NARRATOR:** All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

**SERVANT GIRL:** You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

**NARRATOR:** But he denied it, saying,

**PETER:** I do not know or understand what you are talking about.

**NARRATOR:** And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

**SERVANT GIRL:** This man is one of them.

**NARRATOR:** But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.

**NARRATOR:** But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

**PETER:** I do not know this man you are talking about.

**NARRATOR:** At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus has said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

**PILATE:** Are you the King of the Jews?

**NARRATOR:** He answered them,

JESUS: You say so.

**NARRATOR:** Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

**PILATE:** Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.

**NARRATOR:** But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

#### Please stand.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

**PILATE:** Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

**NARRATOR:** For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowed

to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

**PILATE:** Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

NARRATOR: They shouted back,

**Crucify him!** 

**NARRATOR:** Pilate asked them,

**PILATE:** Why, what evil had he done?

**NARRATOR:** But they shouted all the more,

**Crucify him!** 

**NARRATOR:** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

## Hail, King of the Jews!

**NARRATOR:** They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of the skill). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!

**NARRATOR:** In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.

**NARRATOR:** Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

JESUS: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

**NARRATOR:** which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Listen, he is calling for Elijah.

**NARRATOR:** And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

**BYSTANDER:** Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

**NARRATOR:** Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

(Silence)

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

**CENTURION:** Truly this man was God's Son!

**NARRATOR:** There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When the evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in the tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

"The Passion of Our Lord according to Mark: For Assembly Reading," Augsburg Fortress, 1988.

**HOMILY** 

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood

## HYMN OF THE DAY | O SACRED HEAD NOW WOUNDED

An usher will collect prayer requests during the hymn of the day



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

## **APOSTLES CREED**

- P Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:
- C 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 to heaven, he is seated at the right hand of God 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 PEOPLE

AM Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

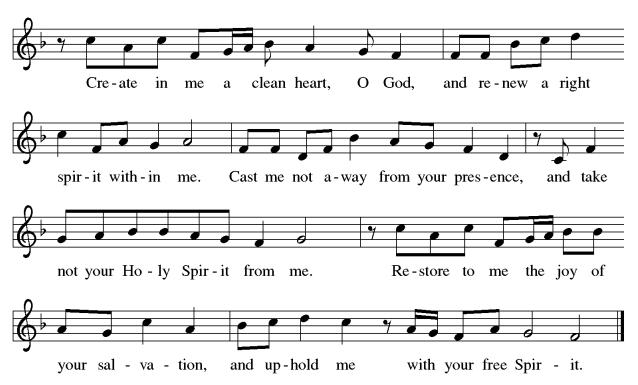
## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A brass plate will be passed during the offertory for your tithes and offerings. You may also give online by visiting ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give. Thank you for your gifts.

## OFFERING HYMN | CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

AM Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

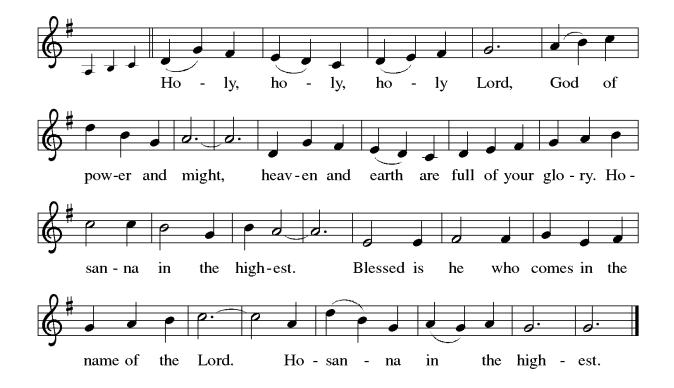
## C Amen.

## **DIALOGUE**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

We extol his life. We lament his death. We celebrate his resurrection, and proclaim together:



Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever:



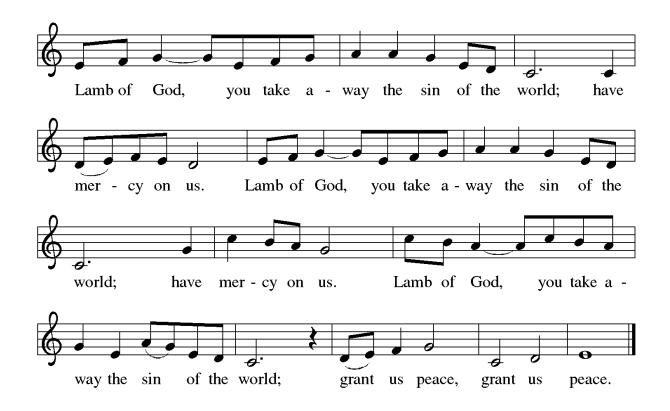
## LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
- Our Father in heaven, hallowed be 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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

#### **AGNUS DEI**



#### COMMUNION

All are invited forward to receive communion. Communion is celebrated by intinction. Worshipers may receive the blessed bread and dip it in the divided chalice containing red wine or white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please let the Pastor know of your preference. Worshipers may also choose to partake using individually-packed elements; these contain a wafer and grape juice. Empty cups may be placed in the basket on your way out of the sanctuary. Those worshipping from home via Zoom are invited to join in communion by providing their own communion elements.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- AM Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to free the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
- C Amen.

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

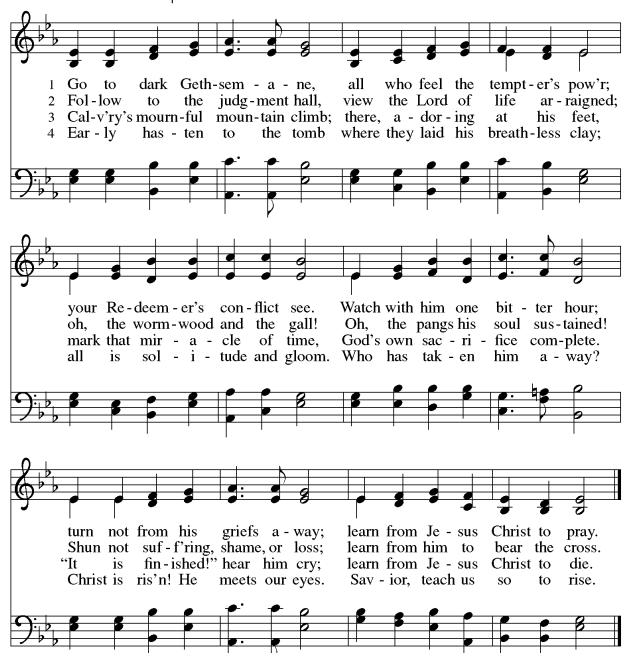
## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIFE & MINISTRY AT ALC

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

## SENDING HYMN | GO TO DARK GESTHSEMANE



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

## DISMISSAL

AM Go in peace. Christ is with you.C Thanks be to God.

## Thank you to our volunteers:

Assisting Minister	Doreen Bourbon
Reader	Declan Murphy
Altar Service	Sue Baumgarten
Usher	Anne Chmielewski
Counters	Blaine Orth
	Sue Baumgarten
Greeter	Maryjane Hagan
Fellowship	
Tech	John Carducci
	Tony Eith

To give online please scan the QR Code below.



## **HOLY WEEK AT ASCENSION**

March 28<sup>th</sup> 7pm Maundy Thursday Service (Footwashing &

Communion)

March 29<sup>th</sup> 12pm Family Service - Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Good Friday

March 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm Good Friday Service (Tenebrae)

March 31<sup>st</sup> 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt

March 31<sup>st</sup> 10am Easter Sunday Worship

## **Connect with Us**

The best way to stay informed of church activities is to subscribe to our Constant Contact email listsery. You will receive the weekly worship link, the bi-monthly newsletter, and occasional event reminders and updates. To sign up, visit ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus, or email the office at officealc900@gmail.com



Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood, *Pastor* | pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com Peter de Mets, *Director of Music* pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com Ginny Kraft, *Church Administrator* | officealc900@gmail.com Beth Peroni, *Bookkeeper* | bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com

The Church Office is open Wednesdays from 9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.

Learn more about our community at <u>ascensionlutheranchurch.org</u> Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown</u>
Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown