

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

[propeace.org](http://propeace.org)

**Worship Videos:** [YouTube.com@princeofpeacesaratoga](https://www.youtube.com/@princeofpeacesaratoga)



**March 29 , 2026  
Palm Sunday**

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

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*Welcome to Prince of Peace! As we begin worship, we hope and pray this will be a time of connecting to God and one another so that we might leave this worship service ready to love and serve our neighbors.*

**Bold print indicates response from all the people**

## Gathering

*(For all who are able, we gather in the narthex with palms and bulletins for our Palm Sunday processional)*

## Welcome

### **\*Opening Litany for Palm Sunday**

P: Holy God, as we remember and re-enact the story of your Son's last week, help us see the story fresh and real ...we ask and pray:

**C: Jesus show us another way**

P: Much like Jesus refused the mantle of power and might, help us to see the possibilities in service and humility, we ask and pray

**C: Jesus show us another way**

P: When we might judge or ridicule...we ask and pray

**C: Jesus show us another way**

P: When we tend towards doubt, fear, or mistrust, we ask and pray... **C: Jesus show us another way**

P: When force, violence, or power are the easiest ways to accomplish our wishes...we ask and pray... **C: Jesus show us another way**

P: When suffering and grief push us to despair and hopelessness, we ask and pray... **C: Jesus show us another way**

P: When anger and self-righteousness feel so good...we ask and pray... **C: Jesus show us another way**

P: When friends, family or community betray us and revenge

would be so sweet...we ask and pray... **C: Jesus show us another way**

P: In this congregation and church that we call family, help us to lean ever out-wards, seeking to spread the love of your son....we ask and pray... **C: Jesus show us another way**

## Call to Worship & Gospel

## 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."

## Processional *Let Us Go Into the Holy City*

Kerry Lewis

*"Let us go into the holy city" is a chorus from Kerry's Palm Sunday pageant "What Kind of King?," which was presented in its entirety at Prince of Peace 20 years ago. The Jewish pilgrims entering Jerusalem for Passover have heard about Jesus and are anticipating his arrival. Could he be the new King of Israel foretold by the prophets?*

# The Word

## First 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?

**Homily** "Christ Shows us Another Way"

Rev. Sara Pearson

## \*Song of the Day

## Were You There



0.5 Were you there when they cried Ho - sa - an - na?  
1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

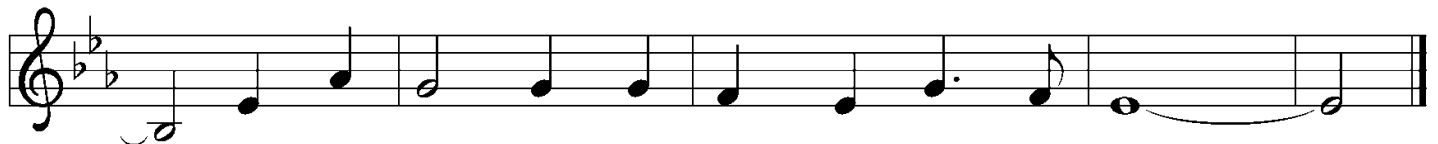


Were you there when they cried Ho - sa - an - na?  
Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*Refrain*



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



Were you there when they cried Ho - sa - an - na?  
Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

## Prayers of the People

*We join together in praying as a church body. Our prayers are lengthy today, so feel free to stand or sit depending on your comfort.*

**L:** God, in your mercy, **C:** Receive our prayer.

## \*Passing of the Peace

*We give one another a word of peace, as a prayer and a blessing. It is a unique greeting that grounds us here.*

## Offering

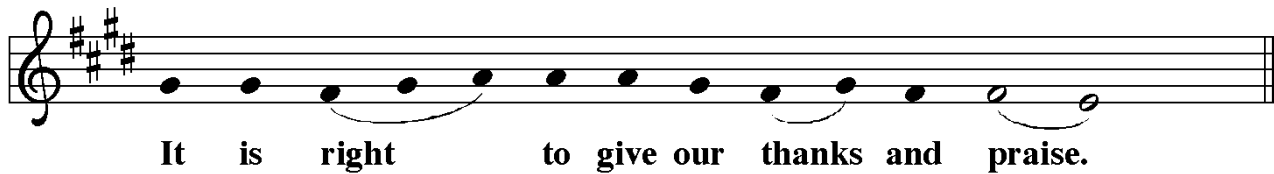
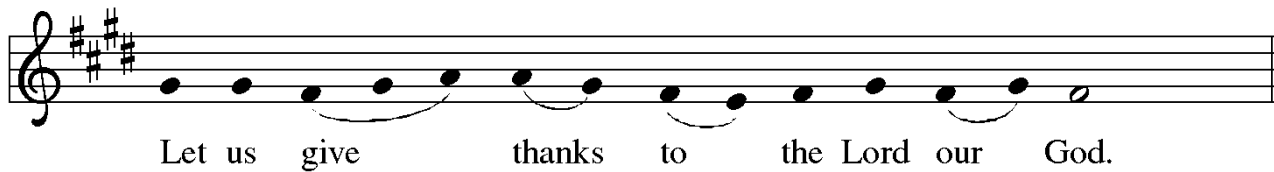
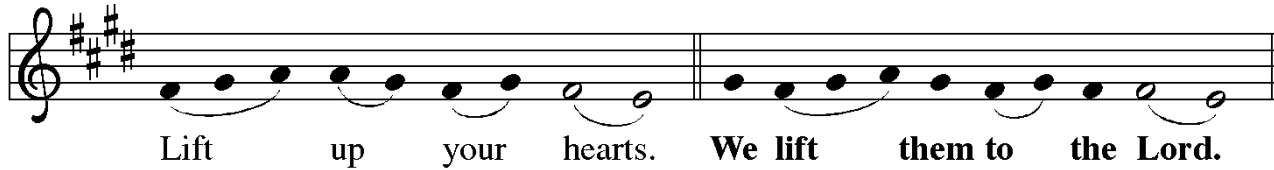
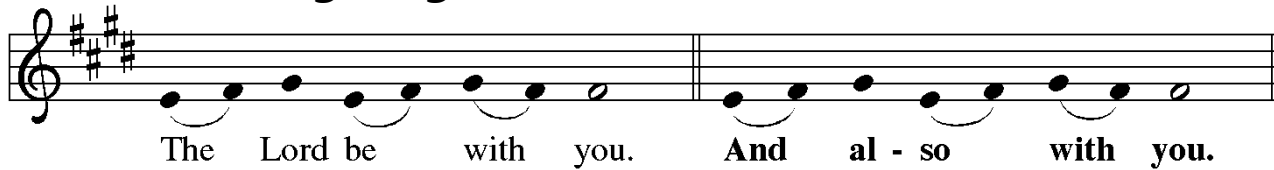
*Your offering makes possible and powerful the ministries of this congregation. You may place your offering in one of the plates in the back of the church. If you wish to give your offering electronically today, please scan this QR code...*



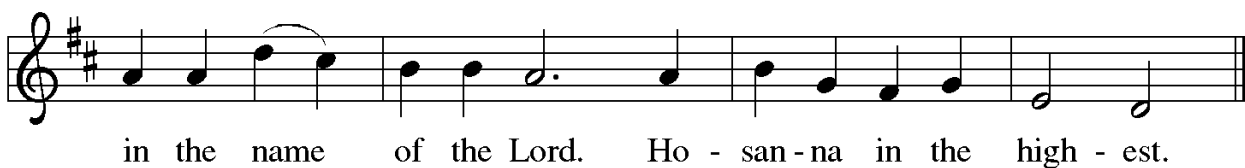
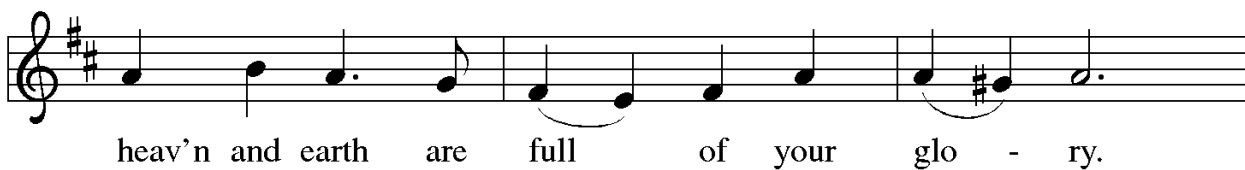
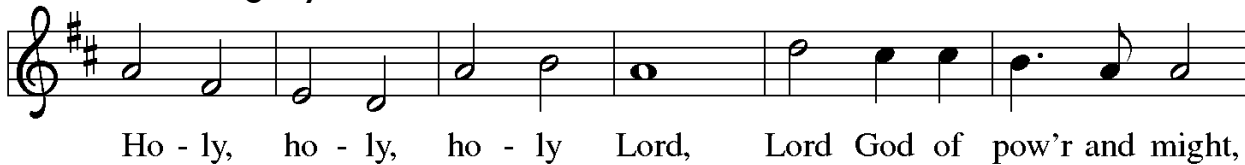
# The Meal

*\*Please stand as you are able\**

## \*Great Thanksgiving



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



To all guests and visitor, to all who have been excluded...

Please know that you are welcome at this table!

The communion bread is vegan and we have gluten free options. Wine is red, grape juice is white.

If the walk to the altar is too far, just let our ushers know and we can bring you communion.

## Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

## Lord's Prayer

You are invited to pray in the style and language most familiar to you:

**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.**

## Welcome to Communion

Communion is one of two sacraments in our ELCA Lutheran tradition. A sacred-moment combines God's promises with a tangible object. At this table you can receive the grace, goodness, and strength of Christ. And remember...**All** are welcome.

**Communion Music** *Après un rêve*

Gabriel Fauré

## The Sending

### Announcements

### \*Blessing


God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Song** *Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now*

*(Printed on the next page)*

# Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now



1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing  
2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -  
3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you



feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and  
vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry  
ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in



life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.  
is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.  
praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731-1807, adapt.

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As we close our worship this Palm Sunday...we hope you will join us for two other holy week worship services—

Thursday and Friday at 7:00pm. Maundy Thursday (Maundy means “commandment”).

And a solemn Good Friday worship with powerful music, adoration of the cross, and bidding prayers.)

Again this year, join Pr. Sara on Good Friday after the sanctuary has emptied for an informal “wake for Jesus.” We will gather in the fellowship hall to share stories of Jesus, make decorations for our Easter altar, and share what these Holy Week services mean for us. Talk to Pastor Sara if you want to know more.

## **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
**Thanks be to God. We will!**

## **Postlude "Intermezzo" from Sonata #20**

*("a la Fête de la Paix")* Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

**[page intentionally left blank... doodle away!]**

*If you create a masterpiece, drop it in the offering plate  
and we might put it on a bulletin!*

## **Thanks to our worship participants:**

*Video Production:* Ethan W. & David L.

*Ushers:* Todd H & Gabe P-W

*Altar Guild:* Carol B. & Dave B.

*Coffee Hosts:* The Skares

*Reader:* Matthew F.

*Guest Musicians:* Dan Hughes

Kumiko Ito

Ryan Silva

Ray Furuta

## **Prince of Peace Staff**

*Rev. Sara Pearson, Pastor*

*Drew Ajer, Director of Youth and Service*

*Anne Hess, Office Manager*

*Katie Hoffman, Office Associate*

*Barbara Day Turner, Director of Music*

*Michael Touchi, Pianist/Organist*

*Kerry Lewis, Music Staff Associate*

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## Welcome Visitors!

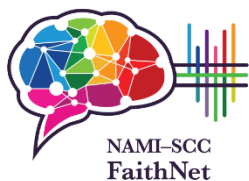
We are so glad you joined us! Please use the Visitor Card in the pews and leave it in the offering plate.

Learn about upcoming events: ask for a copy of the “Peace Notes”, our printed announcements and calendar. We invite you to learn more about us on our website at [propeace.org](http://propeace.org).

Prince of Peace is a congregation in the *Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA*.

We are proud to be a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation, publicly affirming our commitment to be a welcoming community of faith for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

We are also a member of *NAMI-FaithNet*, creating mental-health friendly, stigma-free congregations in the Santa Clara Valley.



[namisantaclara.org/  
classes/faith-net-2](http://namisantaclara.org/classes/faith-net-2)

