

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Today's Worship Theme

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all, we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

Welcome & Worship Notes

- We're glad you are here! Please know children can join us for worship too.
- Congregation responses are in **bold** print. "ELW" is the red hymnal. The Holy Bible is in the lower racks below the pews.
- Our ushers can provide devices for those with hearing impairment.
- Please turn off all cell phones or place them in silent mode.
- Restrooms and water fountain are down the hall from the Sanctuary.

Grace Lutheran Church Affirmation of Welcome

In the name of Jesus, who invites us with reconciling love and grace to join in the kingdom of God, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church welcomes all who profess, or seek to profess, Jesus Christ as their Savior. Believing that the Gospel is God's gift to all, we rejoice in the diversity of God's people and welcome all, regardless of age, cultural and economic background, ethnic and linguistic heritage, gender, marital status, physical and mental ability, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. We are all one in God's eyes, sharing in the free gifts of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we encourage all to take part in the life of this congregation as we worship, witness and openly share the love of God through Christ our Lord.

✠ **GATHER** ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"
Ringers of Grace

Jason Krug

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE PROCESSION AND BLESSING OF THE PALMS

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

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 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." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Please raise palm branches.

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. **Amen.**

PROCESSION

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

*Please sing and wave your palm branches
while moving around the Sanctuary.*

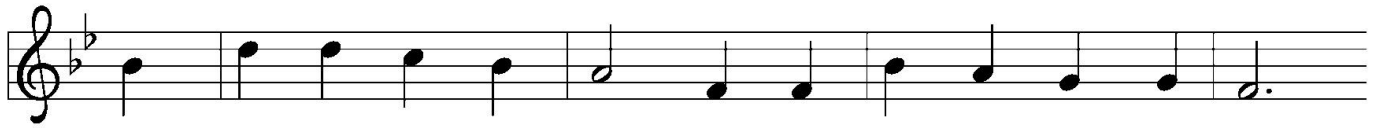
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

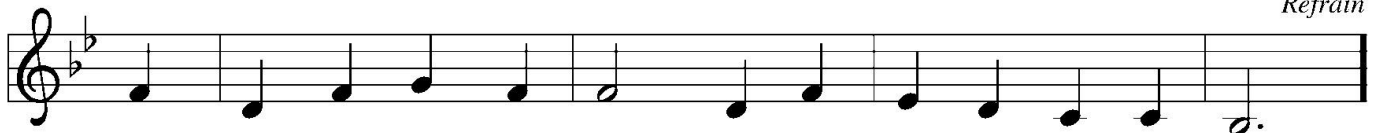


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 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,

Refrain



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.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

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.**

Please be seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message, then are invited to the classrooms upstairs for Children's Church & Music, returning before Holy Communion.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ELW 338

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. **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.**

Please kneel as you are able.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Please stand as you are able.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

✠ **MEAL** ✠

Thank you for partnering with Grace as we share God's love so that all are served and supported. Visit www.graceboone.org/donate, or place your gift in the offering plate in the Narthex or mail it to 115 E. King St, Boone, NC 28607.



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.”

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated. All are welcome to the Lord’s Table, receiving Christ’s true presence promised in this bread and wine. Communion is served down front, receiving bread first (the bread is gluten-, nut- and dairy-free), and wine last (grape juice is available). Please alert an usher if you require the sacrament to be brought to you.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God”	ELW 336
“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”	ELW 335

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Read from “Matthew” booklets.

✠ **SENDING** ✠

CHORAL OFFERING

“And Can It Be”

Dan Forrest

*And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?
And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused his pain? For me who Him to death pursued?*

*Amazing love! how can it be that Thou my God, shouldst die for me?
He left his Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love. And bled for Adam's helpless race.*

*'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.
And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?
No condemnation now I dread; Jesus and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living head, and clothed in righteousness divine.*

*Bold, I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown through Christ my own.
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love, how can it be? Amazing love!*

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

<u>ALTAR PALMS</u> Are given to the glory of God and to the blessing of our congregation by Gail and Alan Hauser.	<u>SANCTUARY LAMP</u> Is burning to the glory of God by Tom & Michelle Borkowski.
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READINGS FOR APRIL 9

Acts 10: 34-43 | Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 | Colossians 3: 1-4 | Matthew 28: 1-10

GIVING REPORT

Giving September 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023

February Giving	February Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
\$17,138.68	\$27,500.00	\$179,377.72	\$172,000.00

Grace Lutheran: Sharing God's love so that all are served and supported.