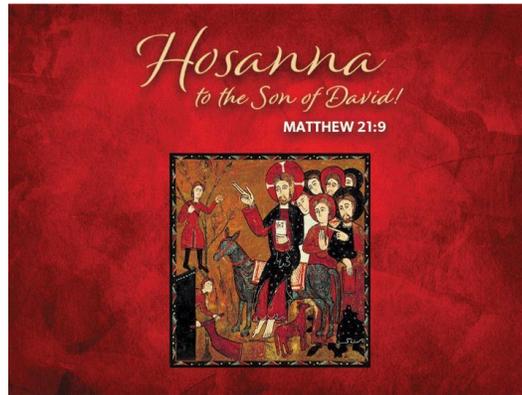


First Lutheran Church

In-person worship at First Lutheran sanctuary,
iHeart radio 620 am and Facebook livestream -
<https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheransiouxcity/>



Sunday of the Passion

Sunday ☩ April 2, 2023 ☩ 10:00 am

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.

GATHERING

THE ASSEMBLY GATHERS

*The worshipers gather outside on the driveway near the narthex entrance. Each worshiper has a palm branch or musical instrument, The cross focuses the people as the presider begins the worship. **The presider calls out to the assembly three times...each successive time louder and stronger.***

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

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

When 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."

Blessing of the Palms

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

The assisting minister addresses the assembly.

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

ELW 344



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

GREETING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Psalm 31:9-16

Join in reading Psalm 31 by verse, as we confess our sin this day.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

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

¹¹I 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.

¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;

I am as useless as a broken pot.

¹³For 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.

¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.

I have said, "You are my God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

**¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of mercy and might,
in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world.
Gather us around the cross of Christ,
and preserve us until the resurrection,
through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

WORD

READING

Humbled to the point of death

Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

A reading from Paul's letter to the people of Philippi.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Let your Steadfast Love”

ELW 176

Stand and sing the gospel acclamation.

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death¹ on a cross.* Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above¹ ev’ry name.

GOSPEL

Jesus enters Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

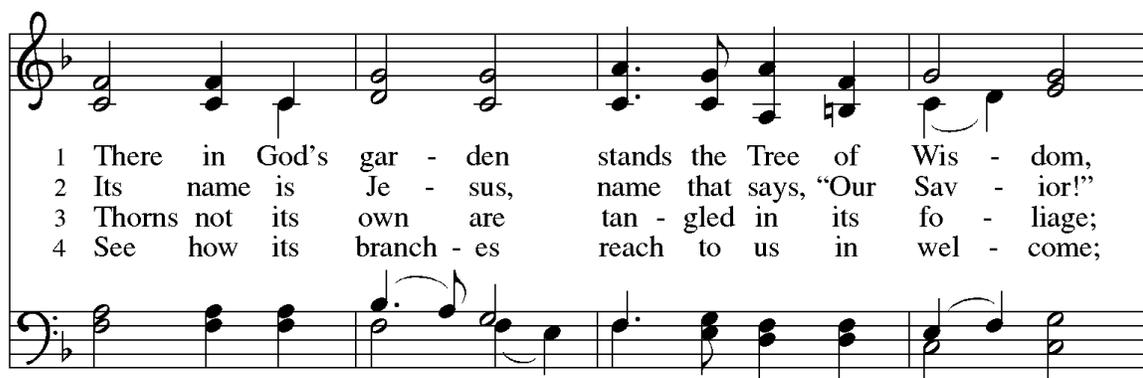
The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“There in God’s Garden”

ELW 342



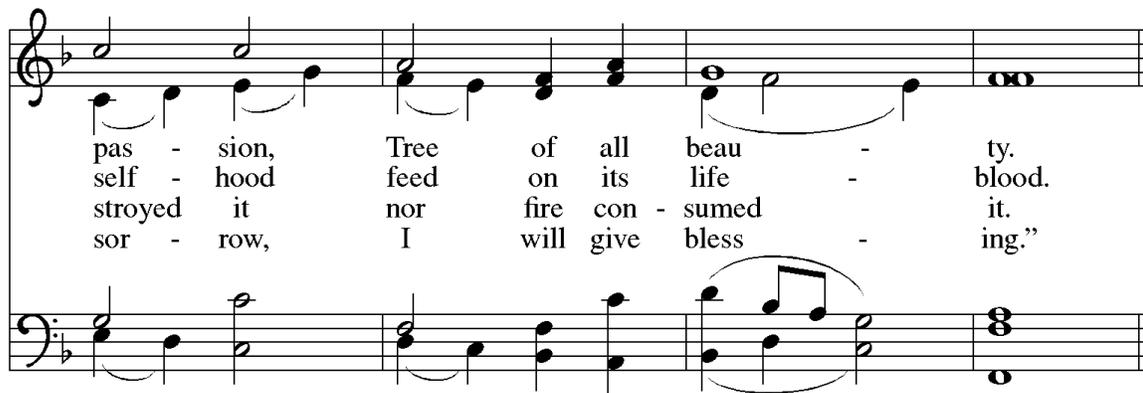
1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!"



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith in the words of the apostles' creed.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God,
trusting in your steadfast love
and your promise to renew your whole creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Greet one another with a gesture of peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

Roger C. Wilson

MEAL

OFFERTORY

“Around You, O Lord Jesus”

ELW 468, verse 1

As we prepare for holy communion, we will join in singing the offertory. At the conclusion of the hymn, please rise for the prayer.



- 1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still
- 2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
- 3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath



to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.
we will be true and nev - er—in joy, in grief, in death—



You say to us so lov - ing - ly, “Take, eat! This is my
It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your
de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple



bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!”
bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.
dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite
Music: O JESU, ÅN DE DINA, H. Thomassön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts,
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

setting three, page 144

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.

This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "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.", and "It is right to give our thanks and praise."

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

setting three, page 144

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

This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The melody is more rhythmic and includes some triplet-like patterns. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,", "heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -", "san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who", and "comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est."

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Communion

Communion will be served kneeling or standing at the rail.

Follow the directions of the ushers to an empty place, return to your pew by the side aisle.

Music during Communion

"Lamb of God"

setting three, page 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

ELW 349



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.
Amen.

SENDING

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.

SENDING HYMN

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ELW 338



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869
Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

SENDING

Notice that the last part of the service is called a “sending” and not a “dismissal.” The final event today is not just about leaving this place but also about taking what we have received to the rest of the world.

Go now, into this most holy of weeks
prepared to keep the Passion of Our Lord:
to eat and drink with him on the night of his betrayal,
to adore his cross on the day of his sacrifice,
and to keep watch in anticipation of his glorious resurrection.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Johannes Brahms

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Kristine Stedje	<i>presider</i>
Janet Gross	<i>assisting minister</i>
Yvonne Hazlett	<i>organist</i>
Kassie Henderson	<i>reader</i>
Ben and Ellie Hertenstein	<i>sound and media technicians</i>
Chris Taylor, Dorothy Chauncey	<i>sacristans</i>
Jason Denne, Ian Hertenstein, Evie Hertenstein, Eliza Henderson	<i>communion ministers</i>
Ian Hertenstein	<i>crucifer</i>
Gary Troth	<i>lead usher</i>
Mark Viksten, Kaia Downing	<i>greeters</i>
David and Janet Gross	<i>coffee fellowship</i>
Jay & Lisa Schenzel	<i>radio broadcast</i>

First Lutheran Church
3939 Cheyenne Blvd
Sioux City, Iowa 51104
712 239 3942
www.firstlutheransc.org

Mission and Vision
*We are a Christian
community
called by God to respond
to God's gift of grace
as servants to the world.*

Pastor Kristine Stedje
flcpastor3939@gmail.com
Jody Hines
flc3939jodyhines@gmail.com

A special welcome to newcomers, we're glad you are here! Please fill out an information card from the pew rack and place in the offering plate. We are eager to make a connection with you. Everyone is invited to fully participate in our worship and in our life together. If you would like more information about First Lutheran Church, please contact us at 712 239 3942, or email flcpastor3939@gmail.com.

All are welcome to the Lord's Table. Please come down the center aisle and up to the communion rail to receive the bread and wine, returning to your pew by the side aisle. Communion may be received in one kind only (only bread or only wine/juice). Gluten free wafers are available upon request. As you come you may place your offering in the basket near the first pew. You may also give by visiting our website, www.firstlutheransc.org, in the generosity section.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7 pm in the sanctuary and on livestream

The Great Three Day observance of Christ Jesus' death and resurrection begins this night with absolution from sin as our Lenten journey concludes. We'll celebrate the Lord's Supper remembering Christ's Last supper with his disciples, and remember Jesus' new commandment to them (and to us) to love one another as he washed their feet. As the service concludes, the altar is laid bare in anticipation of Good Friday observances.

Good Friday, April 7, 2023 at 7 pm in the sanctuary and on livestream

This quiet, reflective and prayerful service features the passion reading from John, and a reflection on Jesus' life and death. It finishes in the darkness with adoration of the crucified as we celebrate the triumph of the cross. We light candles, pray in the darkness, and depart in silence.

Easter Vigil, April 8, 2023 at 7 pm begins in the courtyard off the narthex

This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ.

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 10 am in the sanctuary and on livestream

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful.

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by Jay and Lisa Schenzel and in honor of Lisa's birthday. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST...

April 2 - 8, 2023

Sunday:

10:00 Worship-SS/In Person/FB
Live/Radio w/Holy Communion
After Worship – Fellowship in FR

Monday:

Office Closed
7:00 Scouts in FH

Tuesday:

7:00-9:00 Pickleball in Gym

Wednesday:

9:00-11:30 Food Pantry

Thursday:

6:00 Choir in Sanc.
7:00 Maundy Thursday Service
7:00-9:00 Pickleball in Gym

Friday:

9:00 Quilters
7:00 Good Friday Service
7:00 AA in FH

Saturday:

9:00-11:00 Pickleball in Gym
7:00 Easter Vigil Service