

**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**246 South Main Street**  
**Greensburg, Pennsylvania**  
**724-834-1457**

**Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**[office@felchurch.org](mailto:office@felchurch.org)**

Chris Combs  
Marvin J. Huls

Pastor  
Director of Music

**WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We gather here every Sunday to experience the life changing and life giving grace of God. In this place we discover the truth of which the Bible speaks, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17).

We are thankful for your presence among us, thankful to God for His abiding presence that goes with you this week, and hopeful that you will be among us when we gather again.

# SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

## PALM SUNDAY

March 24, 2024  
8:15 AM and 10:45AM

### THE WORSHIP SERVICE

*The beginning of the organ prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.*

### GATHERING

**Prelude**    **“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”**  
(George Friedrich Kaufmann, 1679-1735)

*Congregation please stand.*

*The presiding minister begins (repeated one or more times):*

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

### Processional Gospel

*An assisting minister or the presiding minister reads the processional gospel.*

### Mark 11:1-11

The holy gospel according to Mark the eleventh chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

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

<sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>11</sup>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.

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

## **Blessing of Palms**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*

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**

*The assisting minister addresses the assembly.*

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

*During the singing of the Hymn, those who are able may exit their pews by the side aisle and proceed to the rear of the sanctuary. Palms will be at the center doors. Please take your palm branch and then process back to your seat.*

**Hymn:        “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”                       #344**

**REFRAIN: All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**You are the king of Israel and David’s royal Son,  
Now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and Blessed One.**

**REFRAIN**

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

**The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.  
REFRAIN**

**To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. REFRAIN**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*In these or similar words, the presiding minister may introduce the prayer of the day.*

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.

*Silence is kept. Then the presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.*  
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.**

*Assembly is seated*

## **Word**

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

<sup>4</sup> The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
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 backwards.

<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 up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9</sup> It is the Lord God who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I <sup>|</sup> am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow,  
and also my throat <sup>|</sup> and my belly.  
<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my <sup>|</sup> years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction,  
and my bones <sup>|</sup> are consumed.**  
<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,  
a dismay to <sup>|</sup> my acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street <sup>|</sup> they avoid me.  
<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, <sup>|</sup> out of mind;  
I am as useless as a <sup>|</sup> broken pot.**  
<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is <sup>|</sup> all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to <sup>|</sup> take my life.  
<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in <sup>|</sup> you, O LORD.  
I have said, "You <sup>|</sup> are my God.**  
<sup>15</sup>My times are <sup>|</sup> in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who <sup>|</sup> persecute me.  
<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up- <sup>|</sup> on your servant;  
save me in your <sup>|</sup> steadfast love."**

## **Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and 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**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death <sup>1</sup> on a cross.\* Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above <sup>1</sup> ev’ry name. (Phil. 2:8-9)**

## **Gospel: Mark 14:1--15:47 The Passion According to Mark**

The holy gospel according to Mark the fourteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>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; <sup>2</sup>for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? <sup>5</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.”

And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup>But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. <sup>9</sup>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.”

<sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. <sup>11</sup>When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

<sup>12</sup>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?” <sup>13</sup>So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, <sup>14</sup>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?’ <sup>15</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” <sup>16</sup>So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>17</sup>When it was evening, he came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup>And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” <sup>19</sup>They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” <sup>20</sup>He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. <sup>21</sup>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.”

<sup>22</sup>While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” <sup>23</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them



drank from it. <sup>24</sup>He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup>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.”

<sup>26</sup>When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>27</sup>And Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters; for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep will be scattered.’

<sup>28</sup>But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” <sup>29</sup>Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” <sup>31</sup>But he said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.

<sup>32</sup>They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup>He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. <sup>34</sup>And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” <sup>35</sup>And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” <sup>37</sup>He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? <sup>38</sup>Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>39</sup>And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. <sup>40</sup>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. <sup>41</sup>He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

<sup>43</sup>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. <sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” <sup>45</sup>So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. <sup>46</sup>Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. <sup>47</sup>But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? <sup>49</sup>Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.” <sup>50</sup>All of them deserted him and fled.

<sup>51</sup>A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, <sup>52</sup>but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

<sup>53</sup>They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. <sup>54</sup>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. <sup>55</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. <sup>56</sup>For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup>Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, <sup>58</sup>“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.’” <sup>59</sup>But even on this point their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup>Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” <sup>61</sup>But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” <sup>62</sup>Jesus said, “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.’”

<sup>63</sup>Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? <sup>64</sup>You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death. <sup>65</sup>Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

<sup>66</sup>While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. <sup>67</sup>When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.” <sup>68</sup>But he denied it, saying, “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.” And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. <sup>69</sup>And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” <sup>70</sup>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.” <sup>71</sup>But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know this man you are talking about.” <sup>72</sup>At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

<sup>15:1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup>Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. <sup>8</sup>So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. <sup>9</sup>Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” <sup>10</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the

chief priests had handed him over. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. <sup>12</sup>Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” <sup>13</sup>They shouted back, “Crucify him!” <sup>14</sup>Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” <sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!” <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

<sup>40</sup>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. <sup>41</sup>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.

<sup>42</sup>When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, <sup>43</sup>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. <sup>44</sup>Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. <sup>45</sup>When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup>Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

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

**Hymn: “Lamb of God”**

**#336**

**REFRAIN: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God.**

**Oh, wash me in your precious blood,  
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side  
to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.**

**REFRAIN**

**Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died.  
The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God.**

**REFRAIN**

**I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side  
to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God.**

**REFRAIN**

## **Nicene Creed**

**With the whole church we confess our faith.**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son\*,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **Prayers of the Church**

*To stay current with our many continuing prayer needs, we will refresh our prayer list at the beginning of each new month by starting with a clean slate. We understand that many people will continue to need prayer beyond the length of one month. If you wish to continue to have someone listed in the bulletin for public prayer, please call the office by the last Wednesday of the month.*

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*At each petition,  
Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.*

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.  
Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our  
hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Amen*

## **Peace**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace  
of the risen Christ.  
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.*

## **THE MEAL**

Offerings may be placed in the plates as they are passed. You can utilize your regular envelopes or the gold envelopes in the pews. You can also utilize our new online giving tool through Tithe.ly by visiting [felchurch.org](http://felchurch.org) or utilize the QR code here:

Checks can also be mailed to: First Lutheran, 246 S. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Thank you for your generous support of First's Ministry.



*(Children, please bring your offering to the front of the church  
and place it in the “Thank You Jesus” Jar.)*

**Offertory 8:15 “Amazing Grace”** (arr. Hal H. Hopson)

**10:45 “Dance the Hosanna”** (Paul Laubengayer)

**This anthem was commissioned for the Chancel Choir of Webster Groves Christian Church, Webster Groves, Missouri in 2000.**



Create in Me a Clean Heart  
*Offering Song*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

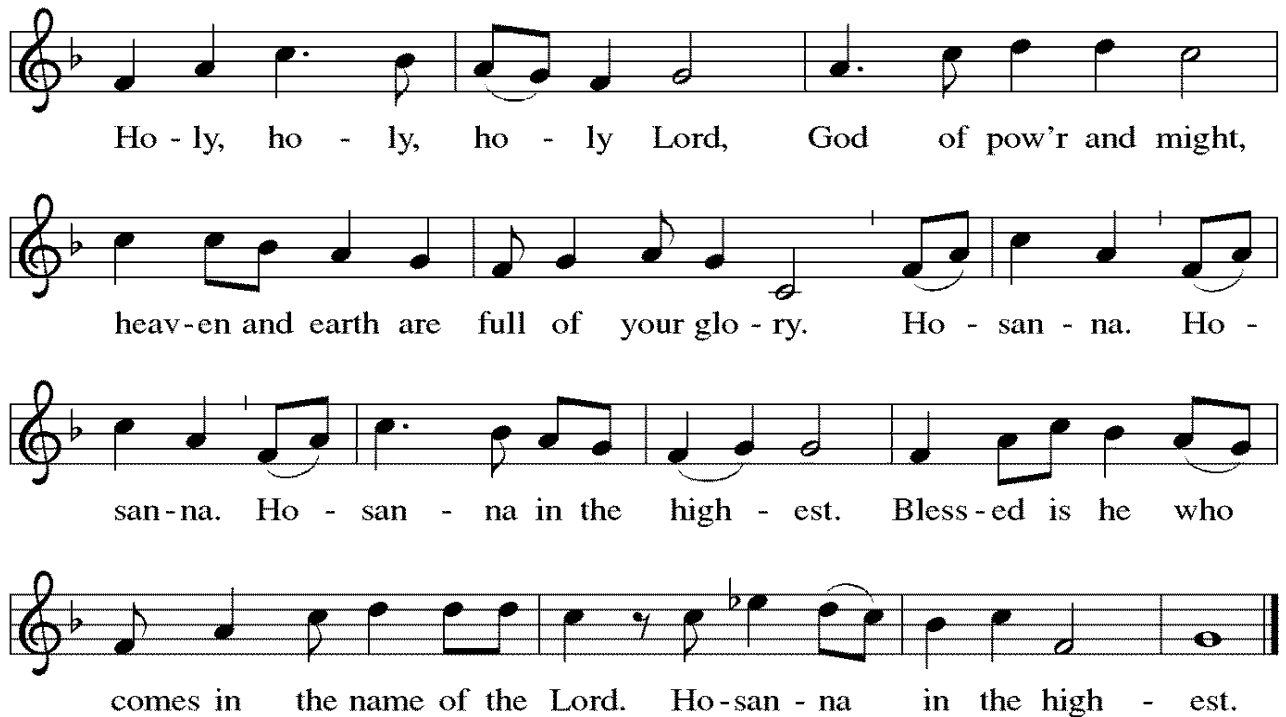
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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:

### Holy, Holy, Holy



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.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following.*

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
 Your mercy is everlasting  
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **COMMUNION**

*All who wish to receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and the nourishment of their lives are welcome.*

*It is not necessary to be a member of First Lutheran to receive the sacrament.*

For those receiving the sacrament please note the following:  
Communion is at the rail for those who desire.

- *We encourage everyone to continue using hand sanitizer before coming forward for communion.*
- *As you approach the chancel, take a plastic cup from the tray.*
- *The communion rail will fill from both sides of the congregation.*
- *We encourage everyone to leave added space at the rail, primarily between family units.*
- *Cups can be placed in the receptacles near each side aisle as you return to your pew.*
- *For those who would like to receive communion, but are not comfortable coming to the rail, please let an Usher know so that the Pastor and Assisting Minister can bring communion to you.*

*The assembly may be seated.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond Amen.*

*After all have received,*

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The assisting minister leads a prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of Salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

# SENDING

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

## Blessing

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN:                    “Go to Dark Gethsemane”                    #347**

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**
- 2 Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;  
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.**
- 3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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# BLESSED TO BLESS

## SERVING TODAY:

**ACOLTYES** are Aaron Woodley and Corrina Vuick.

**LECTORS** are Kim Woodley and Bob Errett.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT** is Rebecca Brunetta.

## SERVING IN MARCH:

**ALTAR GUILD** for **MARCH** includes Bev Attenberger and Linda Griffith.

*“God is our refuge and strength, a  
very present help in trouble.”*

*Psalm 46:1*

## MISSION STATEMENT

**“As Servants of Jesus Christ, we strive to impact our families, neighbors, and the world by sharing our faith, empowered by God’s Grace”**

**Developed by Church Council**

**October 2016**

## **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Lois, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Charlie, Anissa, Jim, Rick, Larry, Cindy, Jeff, Jan, Judy, George, Pat, Sandy, Ted, Levi and Nicole and unborn child, Jared, Connie, Caroline, Mark, Teresa, Christopher, Claire, Ed, Nancy, Denise, Mike, Shirley, Carol, Harry, Kimberly, Robert, M and family, Ronny, Patricia, Bonnie, and Patty and her family.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of Dominick and Genevieve Sheffo by Joey and Belinda Sedlak.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** for First's Prayer Chain may be made at any time by calling the church office or by writing the request on the prayer cards in the pew racks and placing it in the offering plate. **If for whatever reason you do not want your name listed but would like to be on the prayer list, just let us know when you make your request.**

**INDEPENDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM** (formerly Excela Health) does not notify the church of member admissions. Please notify the pastor or call the church office if you or your loved one is hospitalized.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**THANKS** to Michele Boulet (flute) for her musical assistance today.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** is available today, 9 - 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be NO Continental Breakfast Easter Sunday, March 31.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL** 10:00 AM today.

**CHRISTIAN ED AND YOUTH** Tuesday, 6:30 PM.

**FOOD FROM THE HEART** Wednesday lunch continues as a BROWN BAG lunch provided from 12 to 12:45 PM. Lunches will be available for pick up by people walking at the gate to the park and to those driving at the basement door on Bononi Way (alley behind the church).



**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE** Thursday, 6:00 PM.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** Friday, 6:00 PM.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** Saturday, 10:00 AM

**EASTER VIGIL at SALEM-DELMONT** Saturday, 7 PM.

**YOU ARE INVITED** to Lenten Thursday Worship & Luncheon at Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church March 28. Services begin at 12:05 PM. Lunch is served following the service at 12:30 PM.

Preaching: The Rev. Brian Chaffee, Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lunch: Soup and Salad Bar

Suggested Lunch Donation—\$5.00.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE** last Sunday morning was 105.

**ANGELFOOD CAKES** (home baked or purchased) are needed the first Sunday of every month for Meals on Wheels. Bring your cake to the church office. Thank you!

**A NURSERY** is available for children to use on the second floor of the Education Building, down the hall from the Library.

**PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION:** Pastor Chris Combs may be reached either by calling the church office at 724-834-1457, by email at [PastorChris@felchurch.org](mailto:PastorChris@felchurch.org) or by calling or texting his cell phone at 412-973-4179. If the concern is of an urgent nature, please call his cell phone.

## **Stewardship Snippets**

*“While [Jesus] was at home in 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.” - Mark 14:3*

Today we enter Holy Week and walk the road with Jesus to the cross. The gospel lesson opens with a story of generosity. The unnamed woman anoints Jesus with a costly perfume. Jesus praises her lavish generosity and pure intent. What have you to bring to Jesus?

## ORDER LILIES FOR EASTER

Lilies will again decorate our church on Easter Sunday. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of \$14.00 and “lend” it to the parish. Plants that are purchased may be removed from the church following the 10:45 AM Easter Sunday Service. Any lilies that are not removed by the Wednesday following Easter will be given to our Food from the Heart guests.



Your purchase may be made “in memory of” or “in honor of” the person(s) of your choosing. Please indicate your preference and return this form with your payment. All orders are due by **Monday, March 25.**

*In honor of* \_\_\_\_\_

*By* \_\_\_\_\_

*and/or*

*In memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

*By* \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount enclosed \$* \_\_\_\_\_



## **2024 LENTEN CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT CAMP LUTHERLYN “BUILDING for the FUTURE”**

Since 1948, Lutherlyn has become an influential presence in the lives of youth and adults throughout Western Pennsylvania. Borne from the conviction that youth would benefit from a faith-based leadership camp, Lutherlyn has intentionally expanded to include education opportunities that explore God’s creation. The impact of Lutherlyn lives on in generations of campers, retreaters, summer staff, and the communities of which they are a part.

This \$2.5 million campaign will add five new winterized cabins, repair the amphitheater, remove old cabins, improve roads, and add five seasonal cabins. The *Building for the Future* capital campaign will provide the funding necessary to retain Lutherlyn’s capacity for year-round programs and increase the number of youths, adults, and congregations served by this ministry for generations to come.

You may place your contribution in a gold pew envelope and write “Lenten Project” or “Lutherlyn” on the outside of the envelope and on the memo line of your check.

**SWPA WOMEN of the ELCA CLUSTER 4 SPRING MEETING**  
April 13 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Registration at 8:45 AM. Foreign Exchange students from Georgia and Latvia will speak. There will be a worship service and lunch at Noon. Lunch fee is \$10.00. Please phone Lillian Shae at 724-837-8688 to register so they know how many to prepare for.



# SATURDAY MARCH 30, 2024 10 AM

All children ages twelve and under are invited to come and hunt for Easter eggs at First Lutheran Church.

Friends are invited to join you as well.  
Please complete the form below for each child  
and return to the Church Office.



**RESERVATION DUE BY**  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024

NAME OF CHILD \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate below if your child has any food restrictions or allergies.**