



Wandering  
Heart

04

*"Songs of  
loudest praise"*

## Palm Sunday

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March 24<sup>th</sup> 2024

# JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## Welcome!

There is a place for you here.  
*Just as you are.*

We extend welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, or if your relationship status is “complicated”. We love families, no matter how you define them.



We are glad you are here whether you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You are welcome here if you know the bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what he is all about.

We welcome you if you have doubts about “organized religion” or are a “cradle Christian”. We welcome liberals, conservatives, moderates, and undecideds. If you cheer for the right team, or don’t like sports, you are welcome here.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you and so do we.

**We embrace children!** We are used to the joyful sounds and wiggles of our youngest siblings in Christ and gladly welcome them in worship. We have a kids area with quiet toys and activities along with activity bags near the main entrance to the sanctuary to help keep restless hands busy. A family room is also available in the back and is equipped with a large window facing the sanctuary and a speaker to hear what is being said.

## Today's Introduction:

As Holy week begins, Peter is no longer front and center, and so we imagine he is with the rest of the disciples when Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt. The disciples are confused as they witness crowds shouting hosannas. When they look back on this experience, they will remember the songs. The singing is surely etched in their memories. As we imagine ourselves in the crowd on this day, may we remember that they are supposed to be praising Caesar, but instead they are shouting for the one entering the city on a donkey. Their singing is subversive, courageous, and contagious. Their praise shows the ripple effect of public displays of praise.

## Procession

*Please grab a palm and gather in the narthex.*

+ WE GATHER TOGETHER +

*The Spirit calls us together as God's beloved people*

Welcome to worship this morning! Everything you will need is in this bulletin or the red hymnal book beside your seat. During worship, words in **bold** are said by the assembly in response.

We practice an open table meaning that all are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of Joy or any other church. Jesus welcomes all to the feast! Kids of all ages are welcome to receive but we leave this decision to parents. If you prefer your child receive a blessing, please place your hand over your child's hands when the pastor comes to you.

## Call to Worship

Sing songs of loudest praise!

**Hosanna!**

Sing songs that are unashamed.

**Hosanna!**

Sing songs without being afraid.

**Hosanna!**

Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

**Hosanna!**

Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.



## Gospel Reading | John 12:12-16

<sup>12</sup>The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord —  
the King of Israel!"

<sup>14</sup>Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

<sup>15</sup>"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

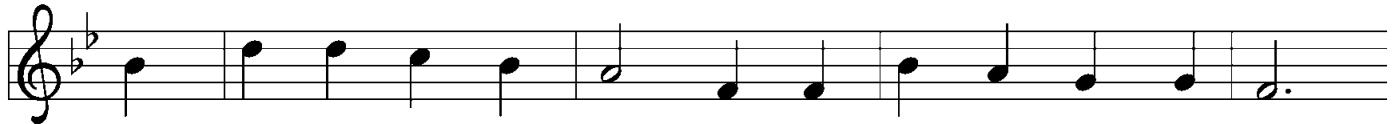
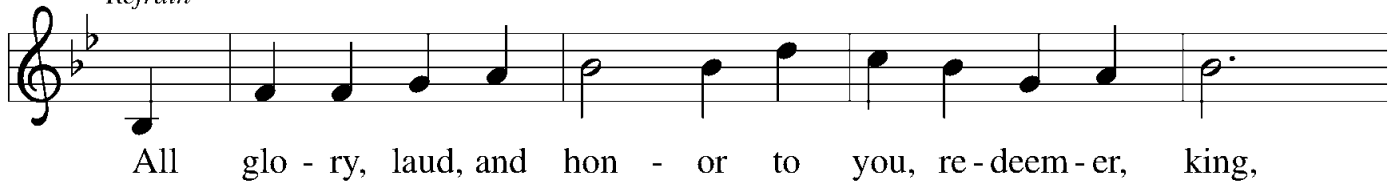
Look, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

<sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

## Gathering Hymn: #344 "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

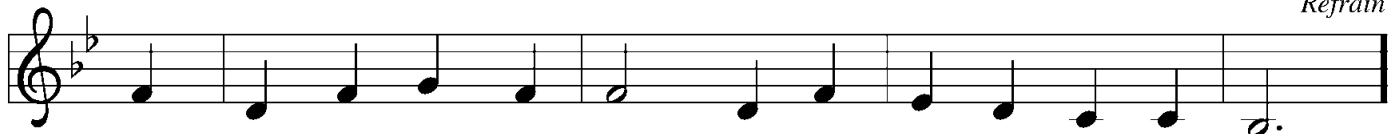
*The assembly processes into the sanctuary singing and waving palms.*

*Refrain*



- 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.

## Welcome & Announcements

### Confession & Forgiveness

The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence.

After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, “the disciples did not understand what was happening” (John 12:16).

A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God’s presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop—or we’re standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing.

That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast, and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood. So let us pray, for we don’t want to miss our chance to sing:

**Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall. Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song. Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines. Show us which songs are ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty we pray, amen**

Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—Jesus marched for you. Jesus’ love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you. You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that.

So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones:

We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ loves you today. And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing. Go out trusting these words. **Amen.**

### Greeting

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.**

### **Liturgy 101: What is the Greeting?**

This is a formal greeting between the pastor and assembly. It's an invitation to become aware of God's presence among us as we gather. It also shows us the disposition with which to greet others in our lives – with God's grace and love.

### Prayer of the Day

God of grace, **your Word is like a song. It is the melody that we long to sing, the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads. So as we return to scripture once more, we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song. Allow us to hear the truth in between the words. Allow the cries of the crowd's "hosannas" to feel like our own. With open hearts and open ears we pray, amen.**

### **Liturgy 101: What is the Prayer of the Day?**

In previous generations, this prayer was known as the "collect" because it *collects* us together in prayer and turns us towards subsequently hearing God speak to us in scripture, preaching, and song. This prayer is a seam between our GATHERING and WORD sections of worship.

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +  
*God speaks in scripture, preaching, and song*

### Children's Message

Psalm Reading | Psalm 31:9-16

*The Psalm is read responsively.*

<sup>9</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye wastes away from grief,  
my soul and body also.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is spent with sorrow,  
and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my misery,  
and my bones waste away.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
a horror to my neighbors,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.

**<sup>12</sup>I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.**

<sup>13</sup>For I hear the whispering of many —  
terror all around! —  
as they scheme together against me,  
as they plot to take my life.

**<sup>14</sup>But I trust in you, O LORD;  
I say, "You are my God."**

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

**<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love**

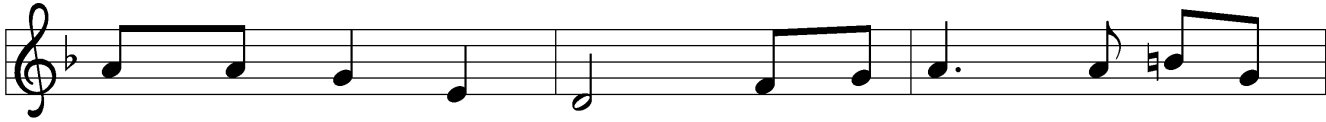
#### Epistle Reading | Philippians 2:5-11

<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.

Hymn of the Day: #334 "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"  
(verses 1-3,5)



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

*Lent 5*

God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who lives beyond our death,  
hold us close through each tomorrow,  
love as near as every breath.

## We Pray for the World

*Each prayer petition ends with the following prompt and response.*

Hear us O God,  
**Your mercy is great.**

## We Share Signs of Peace with Each Other

*All may respond with open arms in response to the presiding minister.*

The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*All share signs of peace with each other, saying "Peace" or "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

+ WE SHARE IN THE LORD'S MEAL +  
*We partake in Holy Communion*

## Offering & Offertory Response



☞ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
 Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### We Pray for God to Use the Gifts We Offer

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.**

**Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the Lord!**

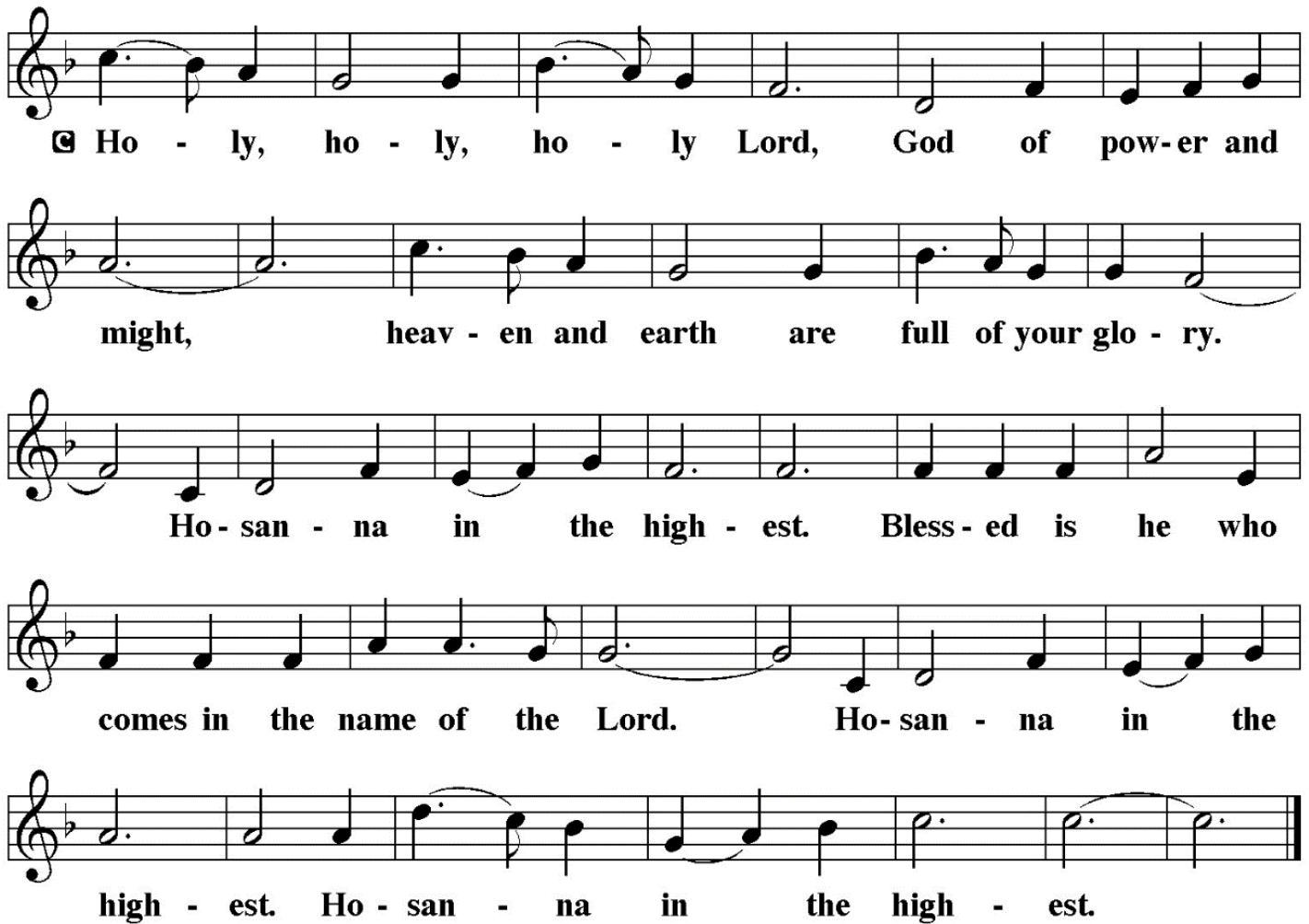
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### Preface

*The presiding minister continues giving thanks to God. The assembly then responds with singing Holy, Holy, Holy.*

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

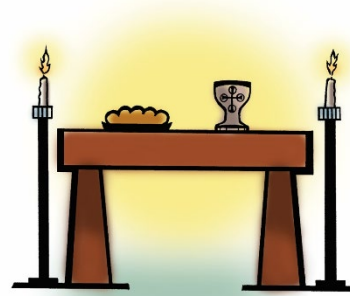
### Liturgy 101: *Why do we sing “Holy, holy, holy...”?*

These words are the eternal song of heaven (see Isaiah’s vision in Isa. 6). Angels and all creation sing “holy, holy, holy”. Heaven continues to break into our world as Jesus, our humble Savior and Friend, comes riding into our midst like on Palm Sunday. We sing “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”! We join all of heaven and the saints every time we share in this meal of Jesus’s bodily presence in bread and wine.

## Words of Institution

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.**



## Communion

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table.* You do not need to be a member of Joy Lutheran Church or any other church. Jesus welcomes you and you have a place here. We believe Jesus is truly present in bread and wine and in this meal, we receive God's gift of forgiveness, kindness, and love.

The ushers will guide you forward. You may either stand or kneel at the communion rail. If you require a gluten-free option, keep your hands folded to receive a gluten-free wafer.

Following communion, all are welcome to light a prayer candle along the west wall of the sanctuary. Prayer requests may be written on paper slips and placed in the wooden hands.

## Lamb of God



**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, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: #335 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

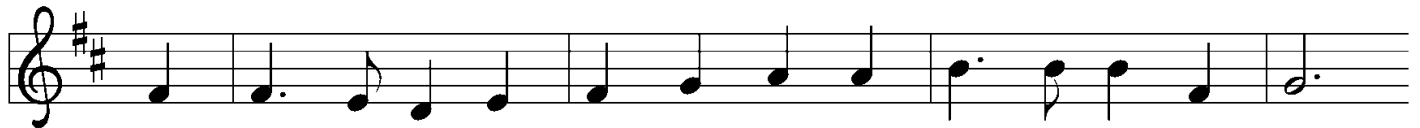
Communion Hymn: #338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"



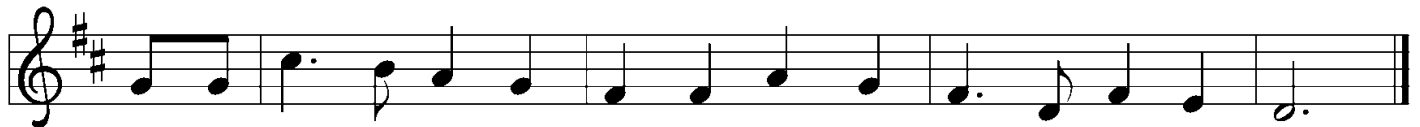
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



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.

Post-Communion Blessing

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

**Amen.**

+ WE ARE SENT OUT +

*God blesses us for the ministry of our daily lives*

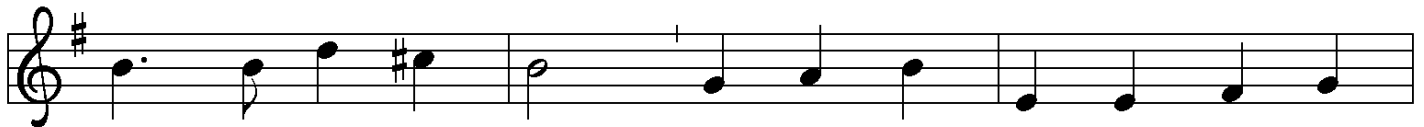
## Blessing

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: #346 "Ride on, Ride on in Majesty"



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the  
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of  
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -  
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -  
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring  
pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.  
gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

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Thank you for joining us for worship today!

*Join us for coffee, snacks, and conversation after worship in the narthex next to the sanctuary!*

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*Want to learn more about our faith community?*

Visit **joy-lutheran.com** and sign-up for our weekly digital new *Notes of Joy*. You can also send us a message on our homepage



**Please pray for those listed below:**

*To add someone to this list, please send an email to [joylutheran@gmail.com](mailto:joylutheran@gmail.com)*

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- + P. Sean, Becky and family (as they grieve the loss of Seans mom last weekend)
- + Julie Meyer (facing the uncertainty after suffering a stroke)
- + Justin Dailey (Chris Dailey's brother, for comfort for the family and a successful surgery)
- + Bob & Candy Allen (for successful back surgery for Bob and comfort for Candy)
- + Tom & Debbie Bird (as they grieve the loss of Skip Lange)
- + Bentson family (as they grieve the loss of Al Bentson)
- + Eric & Margie Hall & family (as they grieve the loss of Eric's dad John)
- + Reimer & Oistad family ( as they grieve the loss of Gary)
- + LaiMing Reimer (as she recovers from a successful kidney transplant)
- + Diana Flaherty (for pain and healing)
- + Trudi (for healing, wisdom for doctors)
- + Lisa Lind (healing, friend of Kristi Swain)
- + Dick Prien and family (as they mourn the passing of Sharon)
- + Jonny Hegna (for strength, peace, and comfort)
- + Stella Scamman (Kristi Swain's aunt)
- + Harold Olson (Ruth's father; for strength and healing through pneumonia)
- + Layli (Trudi's granddaughter, for peace and guidance)
- + Margie H. (for healing and recovery)
- + Harvey P. (for strength and healing)
- + Family of Anton Erickson (Margie and Eric's nephew)
- + The Fredeen Family (as they mourn Wayne and Amy)
- + Brittany Mumma (seizures)
- + Jennifer Huntington (health and healing)
- + Corrine Finnie (healing)

- + The McConell Family (as they mourn the loss of their mother and wife, Mary)
- + Matt (Nancy Olson’s nephew, for healing after surgery)
- + Gwendolyn Roth (peace of mind and that she will know God is with her)
- + Tom Clark (healing)
- + For our active-duty military personnel, especially those serving in Alaska and our veterans.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

March 28<sup>th</sup>: Maundy Thursday 7pm @UMCC

March 29<sup>th</sup>: Good Friday 7pm @UMCC

**+ EASTER SUNDAY +**

Easter Service 8:30am

- Egg Hunt & Family Potluck 9:45-10:45am

Easter Service 11:00am

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**EASTER FAMILY POTLUCK & EASTER EGG HUNT**

Join us Easter Sunday for a family potluck and egg hunt beginning at 9:45am. The children will meet outside Brause Hall for an Easter story with Kelly M. before the egg hunt. If you have any questions, please reach out to the office.

**CARING FOR CREATION | SOLAR PANEL PROJECT**

The sun has moved up above the Mountain in its trek across the sky, with these cold temperatures the warmth from the sun on our faces is such a welcome change. Our solar project - 15.5 kw of renewable power generation – is off to a good start as well, as we count down to the end of April. That date is our deadline to order and plan for installation of the panels. How many panels we can install is dependent on the amount we have on hand. Our goal is \$63,500 and we are currently at \$62,000. We have been asked several questions and the first and most important is how can we contribute and be a part of this project? There are two ways to contribute. The first and for some the simplest is to write a check to Joy with the note Solar Project and put it in the offering plate or drop it off at church. The second is through our online giving system: <https://www.joy-lutheran.com/give>. On that page click on “Give Here” towards the bottom. This will take you to a popup window where in the “To” box you can select Solar Panel Project.

**JUMP FOR JOY KIDS CLOTHES CLOSET – 1st Sunday of the month 1-3pm**

If anyone has girl clothes sizes 5T - 7, it would be much appreciated! Thank you all for your donations and help serving our community in this way!

**JOY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER- HIRING TEACHER/COOK POSITIONS**

JCDC is currently hiring, full descriptions can be found on the bulletin board at the main entrance and in the narthex. Feel free to take a flyer. If you have any questions, please contact JCDC [jcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:jcdcoffice@gmail.com) or 907-694-2755

**JOY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER- NOW ENROLLING NEW STUDENTS**

JCDC currently has open spots available for children 3-5 years old. If you would like more information contact JCDC at 907-694-2755 or by email at [jcdcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:jcdcoffice@gmail.com).

**JOY OF READING BOOK CLUB | March-May 2024**

The Joy of Reading Book Club meets once a month to discuss the book selection for that month. We share thoughts on the book of the month, have a light dinner, and talk and laugh together.

Upcoming books and meetings:

**April-** is *The Maid* by Nita Prose – Karen Johnson will host.

**May-** is *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O’Farrell and Mona Mitton will be hosting.

**June-** Mark your calendars for June 1 book club anniversary celebration on Nancy Lake!

Books are meant to be shared! Please join us!

Please contact the office on 907-694-9601 if you would like any more information.

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

**Presider:** Pastor Marcia Wakeland  
**Readers:** Marcia W. & Hazel S.  
**Pianist:** Kathy H.  
**Altar Care:** Jeff J.

**Communion Assistant:** Sue W.  
**Acolyte:** Grace J.  
**Ushers:** Jeff J. & Henry H.

## 8:30am WORSHIP LEADERS EASTER SUNDAY

**Presider:** Bishop Shelley Wickstrom  
**Readers:** Heather S. & Blake P.  
**Pianist:** Robyn L.  
**Altar Care:** Scooter B.

**Communion Assistant:** Marcia W.  
**Acolyte:** Peter W.  
**Ushers:** Henry H. & Kathy H.  
**Greeters:** Scooter B. & Laura R.

## 11:00am WORSHIP LEADERS EASTER SUNDAY

**Presider:** Bishop Shelley Wickstrom  
**Readers:** Trudi P. & Gideon S.  
**Pianist:** Robyn L.  
**Altar Care:** Nancy W.

**Communion Assistant:** Ray Kelly  
**Acolyte:** Jasper S.  
**Ushers:** Mark S. & Shontelle S.  
**Greeters:** Schmidt Family

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**Today's Flowers Provided by:**  
**Lanehart Family**  
**In celebration of Connors birthday**

## Joy's March Birthdays & Anniversaries

If we missed your birthday, or anniversary please email [joylutheran@gmail.com](mailto:joylutheran@gmail.com)

### Birthday's

3 Caleb Huntington  
4 Peggy Warden-Dana  
21 Scooter Bentson  
22 Nancy Hemsath

### Anniversaries

4 Richard & Peggy Dana  
23 Bill & Penny Manns



## Wandering Heart: *"Songs of loudest praise"*

### Courage

We summon every ounce of courage.  
We give ourselves pep talks  
and we call our friends.  
We dig deep within.  
We practice the words out loud,  
rolling them around in our mouths,  
imagining the response.  
We deal out every "what if" card our brain holds on to  
and spend absurd amounts of time  
imagining all the ways it could go wrong.  
And then finally, blessedly, we say it:  
*I love you.*  
To speak the truth of your heart takes courage.  
It always has.  
But please,  
summon your courage,  
join the parade,  
and speak with conviction.  
For God has been saying to the world since day one:  
*I love you.*  
What is your response?