

Introduction

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

Quiet Meditation: Prayerful Preparation

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude Daniel Sozdashov, Piano and Will Fleischhauer, Clarinet

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.
We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
God’s arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In † Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God’s house forever.
Amen.

Gathering Song# 807 ELW

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: “Hith-er by thy help I’ve come”;
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I’m con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d’ring heart to thee.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides harmonic support. The lyrics are placed below the treble clef staff.

While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
 and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.
 God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By
 our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Special Music Duet

"Variations on Holy Manna"

arr, Anne Krentz Organ

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading

2nd Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ’s resurrection. This is Paul’s strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.

³ So he told them this parable:

^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’

³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn # 608 ELW

“Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling”

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for
you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch-ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me?
par - don for you and for me.

“Come home, come home!
Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Nicene Creed

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

A brief silence.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love.
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life.
Companion anyone dealing with weather related crisis.
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. We pray for global peace.
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness.
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of healing, we thank you for healing already received. We pray for the members of Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry, especially Mary Muckler, Marc Dovenmuehle, Bob Baer, Carol Shrider, Dan Mawer, Ameilia, Pauly Zody, Sarah Driver, Jordan Seubert, Patrick Hellman, Mary Bausano, Barbara, Kim, Sue, and Liam.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please greet people near you with a sign of peace.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Wishing to make a donation? This QR code will take you to tithe.ly where we can receive gifts. Please note: a tithe.ly account is required to give in this way but is quick to create!



Choir Anthem

“Peace Unto You”

Gilbert M. Martin

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

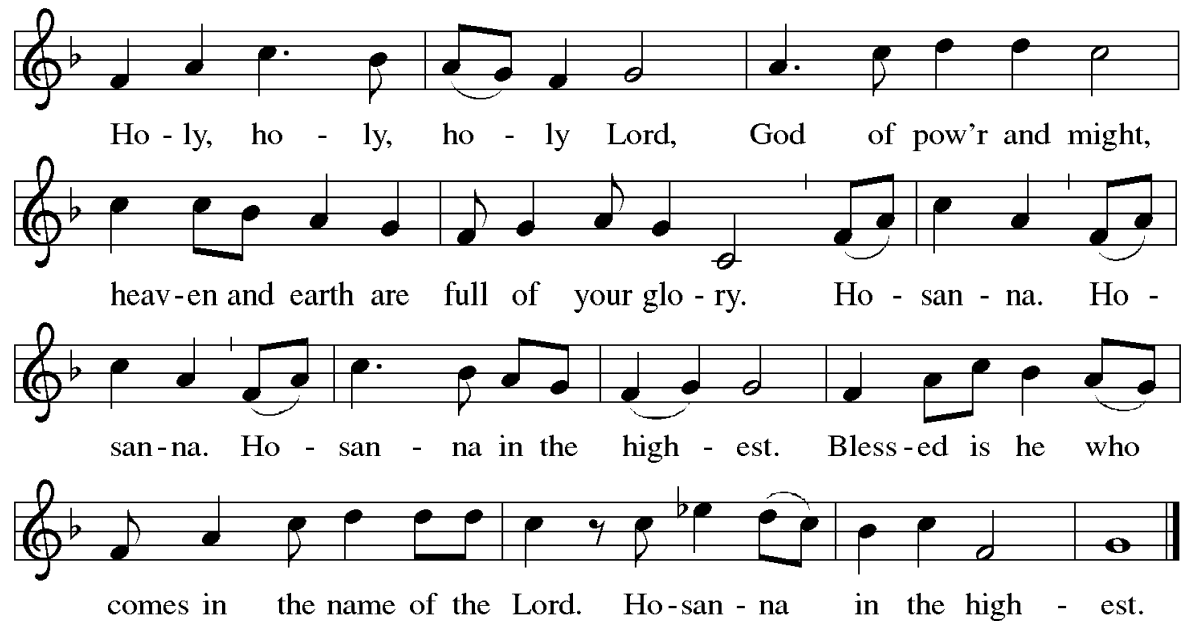
God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

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 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.

We welcome all to join in the sacrament of Holy Communion as the Holy Spirit guides and directs.

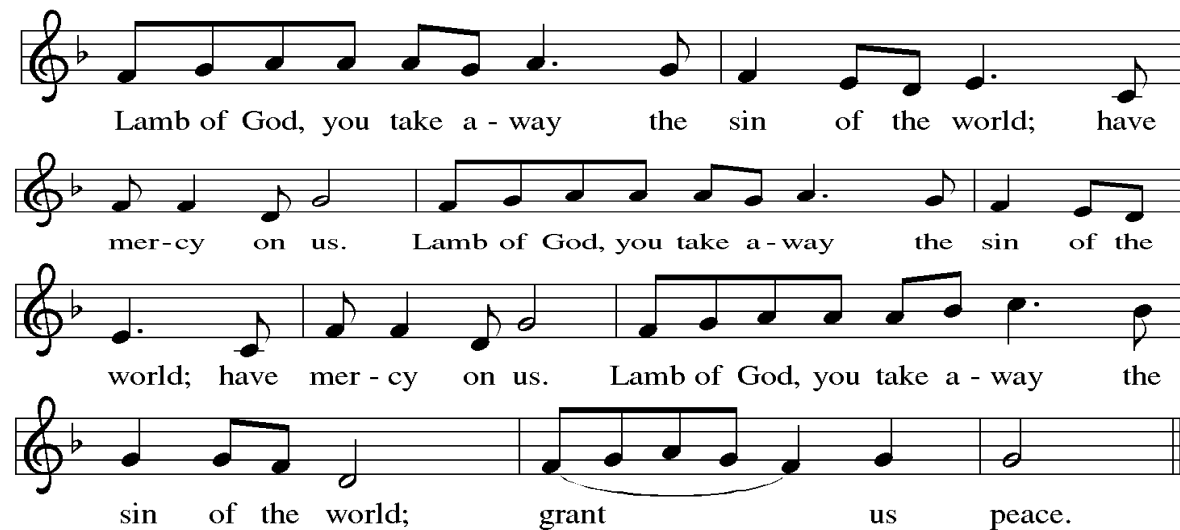
People in worship will be invited to come forward to the altar by pew rows.

The pastor will distribute a wafer or gluten-free wafer, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you."

Each person will then move toward a volunteer holding a tray of disposable, plastic cups: the inner ring will be filled with grape juice, the other cups will be filled with wine.

As each person selects their cup, they will hear: "The blood of Christ, given for you." Empty cups will be placed in a tray held by another volunteer after each person has communed.

Pre-sealed cups are on the table in the hallway for anyone who chooses to communion in this form.



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.

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

Communion Hymn #779 ELW

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

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 Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song # 763 ELW

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

1. My life flows on in end-less song, a - bove earth's lam - en -
2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic
3. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er

ta - tion, — I catch the sweet, tho far - off hymn, that hails a new cre - a - tion. — No
ring - ing. — It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?
spring - ing! — All things are mine since I am His! How can I keep from sing - ing!

storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing. Since

Christ is Lord of — Heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude - Daniel Sozdashov,

Announcements

Welcome! We welcome all visitors and guests. The sacrament of Holy Communion is an essential aspect of our worship this morning, and we invite all who are present to share in this sacrament as the Holy Spirit guides and directs you.

Welcome Back! We welcome back to worship, to campus, and too Oxford all Miami students who were on Spring Break last week. May the week ahead bring blessings! Lindsay Stevenson (stevenl7@miamioh.edu) and Mason Santalucia (santalmd@miamioh.edu) are the student interns who lead our Campus Ministry this semester. Introduce yourselves. Exchange contact info. Plan to be a part of our events.

Wednesdays of Lent Each Wednesday, an email devotion will be sent to all our members and friends, containing a message written from Barbara Brown Taylor's wonderful book *Home By Another Way*. Each Wednesday's devotion will carry with it a brief message for you to read and an appropriate Lenten hymn. Watch your email! Some large print copies are on the hallway table.

MIAMI STUDENT RECITAL AT FAITH- On Monday evening April 7th, students from the Miami Woodwind Department will present a recital at 7:30 pm at Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry. Will Fleischhauer, a Masters student who attends Faith, is organizing this program with his Professor Aaron Pergram.

Please plan on attending- Woodwinds sound beautiful in our Sanctuary!

Looking Ahead Watch your email for our April newsletter. It should reach you April 1st (no fooling!) April 6th is the first Sunday of the month when we will receive a noisy offering to fight food scarcity.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 13. We will hold worship services on Maundy Thursday, April 17th, at 7:00 pm and Good Friday, April 18th, at 7:30 pm. Our festival celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord is April 20th: 7:30 am Easter Sunrise at outdoor cross, 9:00 am breakfast, Festival Celebration of the Resurrection worship at 10:00 am.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Join us at 8:30 am in the Korte Lounge as we continue to compare the life and Passion of Jesus in the gospels.

Zoom Bible Study Please join our next Zoom Bible Study. Our meetings for this study are on Wednesdays, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We are studying the Minor Prophets. Join us!

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the **Southwest California Synod ELCA** and **Pacifica Synod ELCA** to assess the most urgent needs for the communities that are being devastated by wildfires.

To donate, you may:

1. Click here (<https://tinyurl.com/3hbrerd7>) to donate directly to Lutheran Disaster Response
2. Send donations to the Southern Ohio Synod, designated for U.S. Wildfires and we will forward them to Lutheran Disaster Response on your behalf. 100% of donations designated as "U.S. Wildfires" will go directly to serve these communities.

We continue to pray for the communities impacted.

Church Office This week, our church office is staffed Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 12 noon. Email our office admin at FaithLutheranOxford@gmail.com or phone 513.523.3808 for any concerns. Please let our admin Kim know whenever you come into the building.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP 2025

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY April 13 10:00 a.m.



Be with us as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his journey to the cross.

We gather outside of the sanctuary and process into the worship space carrying palms. As we hear the Passion of Our Lord, we will recognize that even in his final breaths, Jesus seeks forgiveness for those who would condemn him.

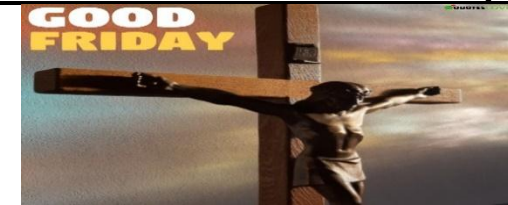
MAUNDY THURSDAY April 17 7:00 p.m.



This worship service concludes our observance of Lent. As we gather with Christians from all around the world, we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples. As Jesus washes the feet of the ones he holds most dear, we are called to humble service for all. We conclude our worship by stripping the altar.

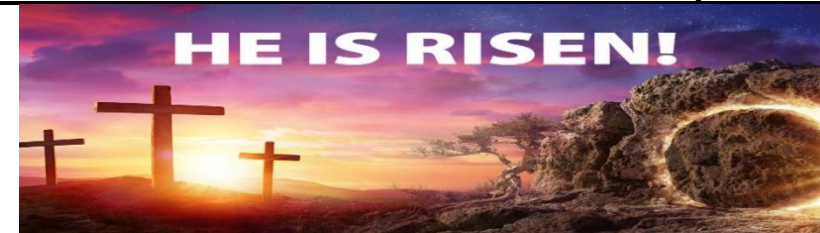
GOOD FRIDAY

April 18 7:30 p.m.



Our focus in worship is the very death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Using the Tenebrae, we will hear the Passion and share special music allowing us to sense the grief and anguish appropriate to mark Christ's sacrificial act of love on the cross.

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD/EASTER DAY April 20 10:00 a.m.



This festival worship celebrates that Christ is risen from the dead! With an abundance of colorful, fresh, fragrant flowers, with exceedingly joyful music and with wonder and amazement, we share the gifts of God's grace for all of creation!