

## Announcements

### THE WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor: Pastor: Rev. Dr. Denise Arnold  
Music: Linda Monahan  
Coffee Hour: Carol Rife  
Flowers: Caroline Fittro  
Communion Asst.: Carol Rife  
Reader: Tim Lexow  
Greeter:  
Sunday School: Jackie Erickson

### Next week

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Denise Arnold  
Jan Thompson  
Easter Breakfast  
  
Candace Kolberg  
Roger Amundson  
  
Jackie Erickson

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God by Caroline Fittro in honor of her loved ones.

**Reminder: Please bring a flower to put in the Easter Cross.**

### JOIN US FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mar 31<sup>st</sup>** – Sit & Be Fit – 10:30 Fellowship Hall  
**Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Seder Dinner at 5:30.  
**Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Good Friday Service 5:30  
**Apr 5<sup>th</sup>** – Easter Breakfast at 8:30 – Service at 9:30  
**Apr 8<sup>th</sup>** – Wisdom Keepers at Noon. Bring a sack lunch.  
**Apr 11<sup>th</sup>** – Men’s Breakfast 8:30 in the Fellowship Hall.  
**Apr 12<sup>th</sup>** – Council Meeting after Service.  
**Apr 16<sup>th</sup>** – CCC at 9am.

### Adult Education Class Coming Soon!

**“Ancient Superpowers and how they shaped the Biblical narrative”**

Classes are offered at 11:00 am on Sundays April 19 through May 24.  
See familiar Bible Stories in a whole new light. - Elten Zerby, Instructor

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Worship Plan for Sunday, March 29, 2026 Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday



402 Crawford St.  
P.O. Box 1020  
Kelso, WA 98626  
360-577-1536

Website: [gloriadeilutherankelso.com](http://gloriadeilutherankelso.com) Email: [gloriadeikelso@gmail.com](mailto:gloriadeikelso@gmail.com)

Pastor Denise Arnold (cell) 253-740-9006

Pastor’s hours: Tues.-10:30am-4pm Thurs.-9am-3pm

Pastor Denise email: [pastordenisearnold@comcast.net](mailto:pastordenisearnold@comcast.net)

Office hours: Tues. 8am-2pm & Thurs. 8am-10am

## Introduction to the day

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

## WELCOME AND PREPARE FOR THIS DAY... AND THE WEEK AHEAD.

Wave your palms with excitement and welcome Jesus to town. After the reading we will sing All Glory Laud and Honor as we take our palms to the front to be gathered.

### Matthew 21:1-11

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,  
"Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

## GATHERING SONG *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (ELW 344)

moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

**Centurion:** Truly this man was God's Son!

**Narrator:** Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief Priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

**Priests/Congregation:** Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his Disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first.

**Pilate:** You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

**Narrator:** So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

**HYMN** *Were You There* Red #353 Depart in Silence

crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

**Crowd/Congregation: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**

**Narrator:** In the same way the chief Priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

**Crowd/Congregation: He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'**

**Narrator:** The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out,

**Jesus:** Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

**Narrator:** which means,

**Jesus:** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Narrator:** When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

**Crowd/Congregation:** This man is calling for Elijah.

**Narrator:** At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But others said,

**Crowd/Congregation: Let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.**

**Narrator:** Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.  
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;  
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;  
we spoil rather than steward your creation;  
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;  
we choose fear over compassion.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
as we seek to follow in your way of life.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **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.**

## **OFFERING and the SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## OFFERING HYMN



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. 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. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Narrator:** Hear the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew:  
One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief Priests and  
said,

**Judas:** What will you give me if I betray him to you?

**Narrator:** They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to  
look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the  
Disciples came to Jesus, saying,

**Crowd/Congregation:** Barabbas.

**Pilate:** Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

**Crowd/Congregation:** Let him be crucified!

**Pilate:** Why, what evil has he done?

**Crowd/Congregation:** Let him be crucified!

**Narrator:** So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was  
beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

**Pilate:** I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

**Crowd/Congregation:** His blood be on us and on our children!

**Narrator:** So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him  
over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's  
headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and  
put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on  
his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him,  
saying,

**Soldiers/Congregation:** Hail, King of the Jews!

**Narrator:** They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After  
mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then  
they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from  
Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they  
came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him  
wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when  
they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;  
then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge  
against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two bandits were

to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, ‘And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.’ Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

**Pilate:** Are you the King of the Jews?

**Jesus:** You say so.

**Narrator:** But when he was accused by the chief Priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

**Pilate:** Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

**Narrator:** But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

**Pilate:** Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

**Narrator:** For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

**Pilate’s wife:** Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

**Narrator:** Now the chief Priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.

**Pilate:** Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

**Disciples/Congregation:** Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

**Jesus:** Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my Disciples.’

**Narrator:** So the Disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

**Jesus:** Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

**Narrator:** And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

**Disciples/Congregation:** Surely not I, Lord?

**Jesus:** The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 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.

**Judas:** Surely not I, Rabbi?

**Jesus:** You have said so.

**Narrator:** While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the Disciples, and said,

Take, eat; this is my body.

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks gave it to them, saying,

Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.

## HOLY COMMUNION

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

All are invited to this Holy meal and we will continue to sing:

*One Bread, One Body* Red #496

*Let Us Break Bread Together* Red #471

*Jesus, Remember Me* Red #616

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Lord, Listen to Your children Praying* Red #752

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

*A brief silence.*

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand

**Servant Girl 2:** This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

**Peter:** I do not know the man.

**Narrator:** After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

**Crowd/Congregation: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.**

**Narrator:** Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

**Peter:** I do not know the man!

**Narrator:** At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief Priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief Priests and the elders.

**Judas:** I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

**Priests/Congregation: What is that to us? See to it yourself.**

**Narrator:** Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief Priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

**Priests/Congregation: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.**

**Narrator:** After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood

**Witnesses:** This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’

**Narrator:** The high priest stood up and said,

**High Priest:** Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

**Narrator:** But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

**High Priest:** I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.

**Jesus:** You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

**Narrator:** Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

**High Priest:** He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

**Priests/Congregation:** He deserves death.

**Narrator:** Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

**Priests/Congregation:** Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

**Narrator:** Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

**Servant Girl 1:** You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

**Peter:** I do not know what you are talking about.

**Narrator:** When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep especially between the United States and Iran, Ukraine and Russia. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

*Lord, Listen to Your children Praying*

Red #752

## **CHILDRENS & COMMUNITY TIME**

### **THE GOSPEL CONTINUES**

**Narrator:** When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

**Jesus:** You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

**Narrator:** Peter said to him,

**Peter:** Though all become deserters because of you, I'll never desert you.

**Jesus:** Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

**Peter:** Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

**Narrator:** And so said all the Disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane;

**Jesus:** Sit here while I go over there and pray.

**Narrator:** He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated.

**Jesus:** I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

**Narrator:** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

**Jesus:** My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

**Narrator:** Then he came to the Disciples and found them sleeping.

**Jesus:** So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

**Narrator:** Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

**Jesus:** My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

**Narrator:** Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the Disciples.

**Jesus:** Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

**Narrator:** While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief Priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

**Judas:** The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

**Narrator:** At once he came up to Jesus and said,

**Judas:** Greetings, Rabbi!

**Narrator:** and kissed him. Jesus said to him, **Jesus:** Friend, do what you are here to do.

**Narrator:** Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

**Jesus:** Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way? Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.

**Narrator:** Then all the Disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief Priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,