



Jesus: a way in the
WILDERNESS

Sunday, April 13, 2025
Palm/Passion Sunday



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org

PRELUDE

“Ellacombe”

(Sing the Mighty Power of God)

Albert L. Travis
tune, German hymnal, 1784

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus’ compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to “let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God’s redeeming love.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Palm Sunday Hosanna
(incorp. ELLACOMBE)

words, Jeannette Threlfall, alt.
music, arr. Joel Raney

BLC Children’s Choir
BLC Vocal Ensemble The Chancel Bells

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸ After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ” ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We shout our loudest praise!

Hosanna!

We shout without shame.

Hosanna!

We shout without fear.

Hosanna!

We shout for the God who is with us in the wilderness and always.

Hosanna! We worship the One worthy to be praised.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. 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.

GATHERING HYMN	All Glory, Laud, and Honor	ELW 344
-----------------------	----------------------------	---------

Stanzas — All: 1, 2

Choir: 3

All: 4, 5

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PASSION NARRATIVE

HYMN	Holy God, Holy and Glorious	ELW 637 st. 1
------	-----------------------------	------------------

Holy God, holy and glorious,
glory most sublime,
you come as one among us
into human time,
and we behold your glory.

LITURGY OF THE PASSION: Luke 22:14-23:56

*Throughout the narrative the congregation reads the **bold text**, sometimes speaking as a disciple, servant, bystander, or soldier, sometimes as the crowd witnessing the events. In the last portion of the reading, the congregation will read the parts of the criminals put to death with Jesus. (Note the instructions in the final reading for **Good Shepherd side and Organ side**.) Throughout the reading, consider: how does Jesus point the way toward faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, or love?*

Jesus Shares a Final Meal and then Prays at the Mount of Olives – Luke 22:14-46

Narrator: When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

Jesus: I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Narrator: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

Jesus: Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

Narrator: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Narrator: And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

Jesus: This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!

Narrator: Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,

Jesus: The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Pause. Turn to Peter.

Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Narrator: And Simon Peter said to him,

Peter: Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!

Jesus: I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.

Narrator: Then he said to all of them,

Jesus: When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?

Disciples: No, not a thing.

Jesus: But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, “And he was counted among the lawless,” and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.

Disciples: Lord, look, here are two swords.

Jesus: It is enough.

Narrator: Jesus came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

Jesus: Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

Narrator: Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

Jesus: Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.

Narrator: Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

Jesus: Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

HYMN	Holy God, Holy and Glorious	ELW 637 st. 2
-------------	-----------------------------	------------------

Holy God, holy and powerful,
power without peer,
you bend to us in weakness;
emptied you draw near,
and we behold your power.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world,
and all those in need.

A brief silence.

#1 Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

#2 Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

#3 Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for children, youth, and young adults, called to lead us into your future especially: Finnegan, Grady, Haley, Hazel, Hunter, and Ilana. We pray also for our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe, called to minister to its community in love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion.

We pray for those who grieve, especially the family and friends of:

- Rabbi David A, and especially our neighbors at Congregation Etz Chaim, who died on 4/6
- Pat K, who died on 3/30

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- David B who is battling an acute form of leukemia
- Lynette C, cousin of Rev. Bruce S, who is having a double lung transplant
- Marcy A, who is recovering from a recent hospitalization

Hear these concerns we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

Silence for individual prayer.

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.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor. If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.

OFFERING

Thank you for your offerings that support the ongoing ministry that we share. Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry or scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page.



OFFERTORY

Musical notation for the Offertory, consisting of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right".

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

HOLY COMMUNION

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 right to offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; for after he entered Jerusalem in triumph, and before he suffered and died, he carved a moment away from the pressure of the world to set the table that would draw all people to God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We 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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant. If you worship through the Livestream and wish to receive communion, please reach out to one of the pastors.

THE COMMUNION

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the

To repeat

world, have mer - cy on us.

Last time

world, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

ELW 345

COMMUNION HYMN

Stay with Me

ELW 348

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Stay with Me". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system covers the lyrics "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and". The second system covers "pray. Watch and pray." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are printed below the notes.

All: Hymn to be sung continuously – also underneath cantor’s part.

Cantor:

1. *Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray, watch and pray!*
2. *Watch and pray not to give way to temptation.*
3. *The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.*
4. *My heart is nearly broken with sorrow. Remain here with me, stay awake and pray.*
5. *Father, if it is possible let this cup pass me by.*
6. *Father, if this cannot pass me by without my drinking it, your will be done.*

Jesus is Betrayed, Arrested and Denied – Luke 22:47 – 62

Narrator: While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?

Narrator: When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

Peter and Disciples: Lord, should we strike with the sword?

Narrator: Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

Jesus: No more of this!

Narrator: And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a rebel? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!

Narrator: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a female servant, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

Servant: This man also was with him.

Narrator: But he denied it, saying,

Peter: Woman, I do not know him.

Narrator: A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

Bystander: You also are one of them.

Peter: Man, I am not!

Narrator: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

Second Bystander: Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.

Peter: Man, I do not know what you are talking about!

Narrator: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Thou Goest to Jerusalem

text, Anna Hoppe
music, Melchior Franck
ed. Paul G. Bunjes

The Chancel Choir

Jesus Is Mocked and Faces Trial – Luke 22:63 – 23:25

Narrator: Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

Soldier: Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?

Narrator: They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

Priest 1: If you are the Messiah, tell us.

Jesus: If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

Narrator: All of them asked,

Priest 2: Are you, then, the Son of God?

Jesus: You say that I am.

Priest 1: What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!

Narrator: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

Priest 2: We found this man inciting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.

Narrator: Then Pilate asked him,

Pilate: Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

Pilate: I find no basis for an accusation against this man.

Narrator: But they were insistent and said,

Priest 1: He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.

Narrator: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,

Pilate: You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.

Narrator: Then they all shouted out together,

Priests, leaders, and the people: Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!

Narrator: This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder. Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

Priests, leaders, and the people: Crucify, crucify him!

Narrator: A third time he said to them

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.

Narrator: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

HYMN	Holy God, Holy and Glorious	ELW 637 st. 3
-------------	-----------------------------	------------------

Holy God, holy and beautiful,
beauty unsurpassed,
you are despised, rejected;
scorned, you hold us fast,
and we behold your beauty.

The congregation stands as the final portion of gospel is read.

Jesus Is Crucified and Buried – Luke 23:26-56

Narrator: As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

Jesus: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, “Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.” Then they will begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us,” and to the hills, “Cover us.” For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Narrator: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

Jesus: Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

Narrator: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

Leaders: He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!

Narrator: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

Soldier: If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!

Narrator: There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

Good Shepherd Side: Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

Narrator: But the other rebuked him, saying,

Organ Side: Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus: Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

Narrator: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

Jesus: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Narrator: Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

Soldier: Certainly this man was innocent.

Narrator: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Holy God, holy and only wise,
wisdom of great price,
you choose the way of folly:
God the crucified,
and we behold your wisdom.

Brief silence

CLOSING PRAYER

God of all, in his life and on the cross in his death, Jesus showed us the way of faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love.

Send us your Spirit to accompany us and lead us in the way of Jesus. Amen

BENEDICTION

May God who calls us to travel along new paths and through unknown perils fill us with faith and courage, and may † Christ's hand lead us in love and support us each step of the way by the power of the Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus walks with you.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Lead Me, Lord

text, based on Psalms 4:8 and 5:8
music, Samuel Sebastian Wesley

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.*

During Holy Week we omit the Postlude and provide space for silence and reflection following worship. Please honor this time of meditation by moving conversations outside of the sanctuary.

BLC Pastors

The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

BLC Musicians

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Chrisanne Gates, Chancel Choir Director

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

Additional musical leadership provided by:

Michael Koncilja, piano

Sue Cardinal, flute

Hans Walter-Peterson, cantor

Thank you to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Talk with one of the pastors following worship or send an email to volunteersupport@blcfairport.org and we'll follow up!

Communicate with us: Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

What's happening at BLC this week? Visit the Calendar of Events at www.blcfairport.org. Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please email the church office at office@blcfairport.org or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

Church office hours: Our co-Pastors are available Sunday – Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling (585) 223-0634 or emailing pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org or pastor.amy@blcfairport.org.

Holy Week and Easter at Bethlehem

During Holy Week we follow Jesus' journey from his triumphal entry into the city to a desolate cross to an empty tomb.

Check out the weekly Star and Ready for Worship emails for more information about Holy Week worship.

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13 at 8:55 am (in person and livestream)

Maundy Thursday, April 17 (in person and livestream)

Noon (in person and livestream) – Individual Absolution and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

6 pm (in person only) – Remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples, we will begin worship with a shared meal at tables in the Narthex and end in silence in the sanctuary after the altar is stripped

Remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples, we will experience a shared potluck meal together as part of worship on this holy day! Worship begins around tables in the Narthex and ends in silence in the Sanctuary as the altar is stripped. This is an embodied opportunity for people of all ages to be fed by the gathering of Christ's followers, the food we share, and the meal of Holy Communion before moving to the solemnity of Good Friday. **Would you contribute to our worshipful dinner?** Sign up here or in the Narthex. Beverages will be provided. Please no breads or desserts.



Good Friday, April 18 at 7 pm (in person and livestream) – **Tenebrae Service**

Easter Sunday, April 20 at 8:55 am (in person and livestream) **and**

11 am (in person only)

Easter Breakfast served 9:45 – 10:45 am

A Place with Jesus

The movement of this day—from shouts of praise to words of denial and cries for crucifixion—mirrors the path of discipleship. The lives of Jesus’ followers hang in the balance between faithfulness and betrayal. For Peter, the act of denial is subtle and insidious. He claims not to know Jesus; he claims to have no place as his disciple. On the surface it is seemingly harmless. It happens, and then is over in a moment. In reality, the harm is deep and lasting. Subtle but harmful denial happens in a split second as disciples compromise faith for the sake of self-protection—as they’re too embarrassed to give thanks; as someone knows how to help but fails to do so because it’s inconvenient; as resources are hoarded. While Peter withholds everything for his own sake, Jesus, for the sake of others, withholds nothing. As disciples fail to claim their place with Jesus, Jesus’ embrace claims them. From the cross, Jesus offers mercy wide enough to claim even those who do not know what they do.

Augsburg Fortress resources are being livestreamed by permission. All rights reserved.
From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43732.

Permission to stream and print the music in this service obtained from One License under Annual License #A-724002

NRSVue Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education

Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

“Ellacombe” Tune: Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784; alt. 1868; Music: Albert L Travis

© 2006 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP) – (adm. MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.)

“Palm Sunday Hosanna” Words : Jeannette Threlfall, alt; Music: arr. Joel Raney – incorp. Ellacombe © 2017 Hope Publishing Company

Music: Marty Haugen, from *Mass of Creation* © 1984, 1985, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

“Thou Goest to Jerusalem” Text: Anne Hoppe; Music: Melchior Franck; ed. Paul G. Bunjes © 1955 Concordia Publishing House

“Lead Me, Lord” Text: based on Psalms 4:8 and 5:8; Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley

“Stay with Me” Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)