



# Christ United

**Palm Sunday**

**03-29-2026**

## **Welcome!**

(Stand)

**P:** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Hosanna in the highest.**

**A:** 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.

**Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11**

**P:** The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Song: Red Hymnal #344 (Stand)**

**A: First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a (Sit)**

**A: The Word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**A: Psalm 31:9-16**

**A: Second Bible Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

**A: The Word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**P:** As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray. 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.

**C: Amen.**

**P: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew**

**C: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

*The Gospel lesson is read*

**Song of the Day: Red Hymnal #349 (Stand)**

**Apostles' Creed (Stand)**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers

**P:** Caught between joy and despair, we yearn for the fulfillment of God's desire beyond the brokenness and neediness of this life. We offer thanksgiving for God's presence with us and petitions for the transformation of the church and the world.

**A:** O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

**A:** Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

**A:** Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

**A:** Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

**A:** O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

**A:** Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us O Lord to be about the work of your kingdom even as the search for a new pastor continues. Prepare the pastor you are calling to our congregation and prepare us to discern and recognize that calling. Prepare us in this congregation for new leadership and opportunities in this vast world in which we minister. Fill us with patience and understanding during this in between time. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*Other intercessions may be offered by anyone at this time.*

**P:** Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker, day by day you sustain the weary with your word and gently encourage us to place our trust in you. Awaken us to the suffering of those around us; save us from hiding in denials or taunts that deepen the hurt; give us grace to share one another's burdens in humble service. **C: Amen.**

***The Peace is shared at this time***

**P:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*People may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.*

**Offering - March Noisy Offerings MSU Friendship House  
(Stand)**

**P:** Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,

**C:** **You have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**P:** Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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 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.

**P:** As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**C:** 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.

*(Sit) The Bread is broken*

**P:** Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Distribution of Holy Communion**

*Communion today is open to all. The Episcopal and Lutheran Churches believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine.*

*Communion is either wafer and individual cup, or celebrated as spiritual communion. You will receive a wafer from the pastor (gluten-free wafers are available upon request). You will then take a cup from the tray the assistant is holding (wine in the outer rings, grape juice in the center). Eat the wafer and drink from the cup. You will not be ushered but ask that you come forward when ready and return to your seat when you have received communion.*

**(Stand)**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

## **The Blessing**

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless you now and always. **C: Amen.**

## **Closing Song: Song Sheet (Stand)**

## **Announcements**

## **Faith Word for the Week: Hope**

## **Dismissal**

**A:** Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**A:** And This Week

**C:** Share the unconditional love of Jesus Christ

**P:** Presiding Minister **A:** Assisting Minister **C:** Congregation

# Announcements and Events

## **Soup Meal**

On Wednesdays starting at 6PM, Pastor Bryan will be at Grace Lutheran for a provided soup meal and prayer/devotional time afterwards.

## **Rummage Sale**

We will have a second Ox Roast Weekend Rummage Sale this August. We will request support from Thrivent as well. The funds will go towards the purchase of Empowerment Coats to aid in the care of people experiencing homelessness. As you Spring Clean at home, please be placing items aside for the Sale (No clothes).

## **Call Team Update**

Our MSP has been submitted/accepted by both the ELCA Synod and Episcopal Diocese. The CU Call team will be meeting with Bishop Julie and the Grace Lutheran Call Team for next steps. Please keep our new Pastor and the process in your thoughts and prayers.

## **Community Mutual Aid Needs**

We continue to collect warm clothing, blankets, easy to open/eat food items as well as other items on the list. Further, we continue to collect food items for the St. Paul Food Bank. If you are unable to shop, you can always write a separate check/donate to the church indicating which project you would like that extra offering to go to. A list of needs has been emailed and you can also find a list at the entrance of the sanctuary.

## **HOLY WEEK:**

**March 29:** Palm Sunday Worship

**Wednesday April 1,** Special Bible Study with parts of the Chosen showing Jesus' time as He heads towards the Cross.

**Thursday April 2:** Passover Meal, Preparations start at 6PM, Eating and sharing of the event starts around 7pm

**Good Friday Services:** 12 Noon at CU and 7PM at Grace Lutheran.

**Easter Celebration 9AM April 5** with POTLUCK Brunch following. Bring yourselves, family, friends and a favorite dish to share!

## **Weekly/Monthly Events:**

**Bible Study - Wednesday morning 10am**

# Welcome to Christ United

Here is some information to help you feel welcome:

**Relax** - We don't expect you to stand up and introduce yourself or do anything which makes you feel uncomfortable. Most everything you need is in the bulletin.

## **Worship Service:**

Children are always welcome in worship - There are some small toys in the entrance of the church for your use. The Pastor will invite children to be part of a "Kid's Time" before the sermon. Please feel free to move about as needed to make your children feel comfortable.

**Bulletin and Music:** Most everything you need is in the bulletin. We also use a variety of music resources, including hymnals and song sheets. Hymnals are located on the cart when you first come into the church. The sign next to the cart will direct you to which to pick up, the 'red' hymnal and/or the 'burgundy' hymnal. Song sheets are located by the bulletins.

**Offering** - Don't feel obligated to participate in the offering on your first visit. This service is our gift to you. Offering is a response to what God has given us. We also collect a "noisy offering." This is an offering of loose change for needs in our community and world. Each month the offering goes to a different need. The ideas for each of the offerings come from the participants in this ministry.

**All are welcome to receive Communion** - Whether you are a Christian or not, anyone can take communion here. Also, if you do not want to participate in the receiving of communion, feel free to come forward with your arms folded to receive a blessing.

**Building** - Restrooms are located on the lower level, at the far end of the building. Bathrooms are for all genders.

**Refreshments after Worship** - Please join us downstairs after worship for refreshments.

We're glad you came today and look forward to seeing you again! If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us.

## **Christ United**

An Interdenominational Church founded by the Episcopal & Lutheran Church. Welcoming ALL people to experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Bryan Schneider-Thomas - [pastor.christuniteddewitt@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.christuniteddewitt@gmail.com)

(616) 608-3334 **9:00 AM Sunday Worship** with Communion. Also broadcasting live on Facebook. 1000 West Webb Road, DeWitt, Michigan 48820 [www.christuniteddewitt.com](http://www.christuniteddewitt.com)