



**Chicago's Premier
Handbell Ensemble**

KC Congdon, Artistic Director

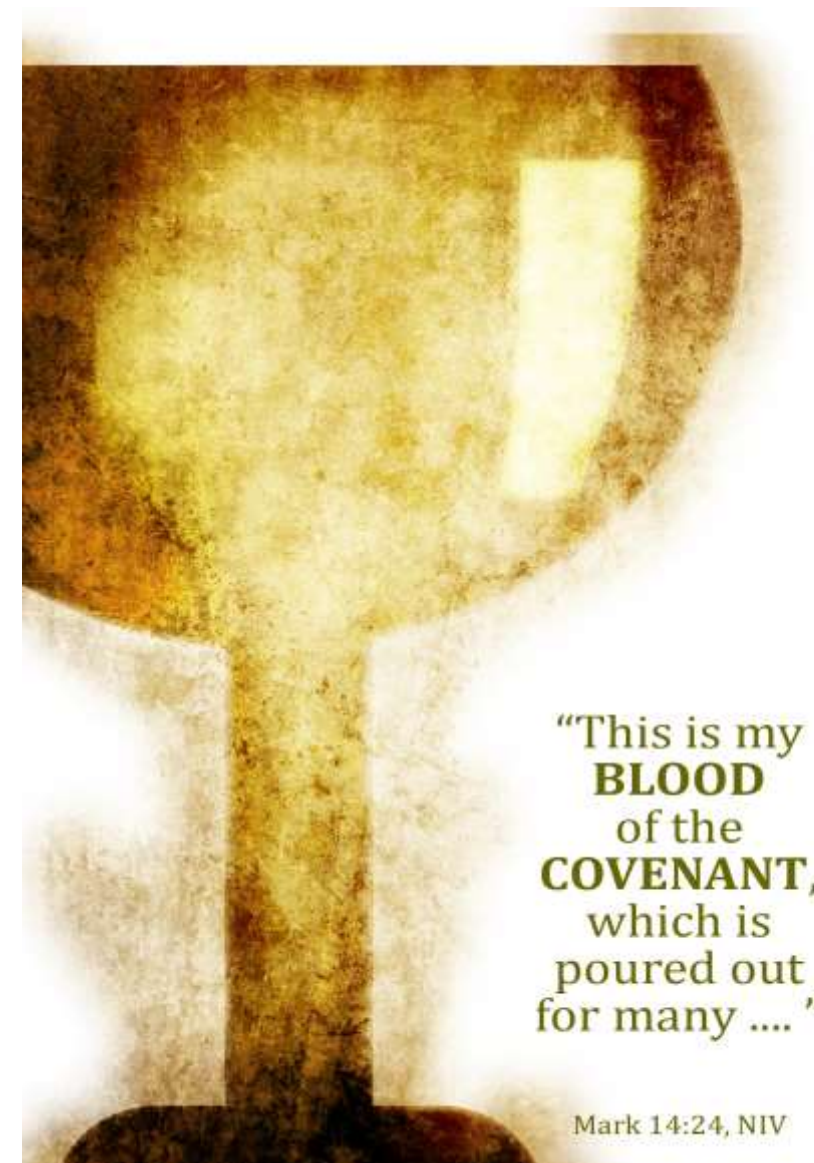
**in Concert on
April 14 at 4 p.m.
at Immanuel Lutheran Church
(501 8th Ave., Rock Falls, IL)**

A free will offering will be received. ALL ARE WELCOME!

This program is partially
supported by a grant from the
Illinois Arts Council Agency.



www.AgapeRingers.org



**"This is my
BLOOD
of the
COVENANT,
which is
poured out
for many"**

Mark 14:24, NIV

**Sunday, March 24, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Children's Offering

In March and April the children's offering will support our synod partners in Tanzania and India. The offerings will be sent directly to non-profit organizations that work with the North Central Diocese of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Arcot Lutheran Church (ALC) in India. The Friends of Mwangaza supports education programs that tackle issues related to teaching, learning, public health, empowering women, and building community in Tanzania. Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry supports education through financially supporting students at the ALC boarding homes in India. Check out both organizations here: <https://lutheranpartners.org/what-we-do> or <https://www.mwangazapartnership.org/>

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Prelude

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

J. Wayne Kerr

When the prelude music begins, we invite you into a time of silent reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome/Announcements

GATHERING

ACCLAMATION

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

C: Hosanna in the highest!

P: A reading from Mark 11:

Narrator: When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them,

Jesus: "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' "

Narrator: They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them,

All: "What are you doing, untying the colt?"

Disciples: "The Lord needs it"

Narrator: they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

All: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Narrator: Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

BLESSING OF PALMS

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

All: We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today Jesus 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.

“Pave the Way with Branches”

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with an asterisk and the lyrics '* Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es.' The second staff continues with 'Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na.' and includes first and second endings. The third staff continues with 'Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -' and also includes first and second endings. The fourth staff concludes with 'san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace.'

* Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es.

Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na.

Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -

san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace.

**Additional verses ad lib.:*

Release for the captives . . .

Hope for the downtrod . . .

Land for the landless . . .

Debts are forgiven . . .

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957

Music: PAVE THE WAY, Bret Hesla

Text and music © 1999 Bret Hesla, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, you love us and all of creation so much, that you came to be with us and suffer with us, even through death on a cross. Walk with us in our moments of Joy when we sing Hosanna. Have mercy on us when we turn to betray you. Open our hearts and guide us to live and love like Jesus Christ, our savior, Amen.

Passion of Our Lord According to St. Mark

Mark 14:1-15:47

For this reading, the congregation will be asked to read those parts which are printed in bold type.

Narrator: It was now two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law were still looking for an opportunity to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. But they agreed:

All: But not during the Passover celebration or the people may riot.

Narrator: Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over his head. Some of those at the table were indignant.

All: Why waste such expensive perfume? It could have been sold for a year's wages and the money given to the poor!

Narrator: So they scolded her harshly. But Jesus replied:

Jesus: Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me? You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time. I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed.

Narrator: Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests to arrange to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted when they heard why he had come, and they promised to give him money. So he began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus. On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus' disciples asked him,

All: Where do you want us to go to prepare the Passover meal for you?

Narrator: So Jesus sent two of them into Jerusalem with these instructions:

Jesus: As you go into the city, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.

Narrator: So the two disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there. In the evening Jesus arrived with the Twelve. As they were at the table eating, Jesus said

Jesus: I tell you the truth, one of you eating with me here will betray me.

Narrator: Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, Left Side: Am I the one? Right Side: Am I the one?

Jesus: It is one of you twelve who is eating from this bowl with me. For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!

Narrator: As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying,

Jesus: Take it, for this is my body.

Narrator: And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And he said to them,

Jesus: This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many. I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.

Narrator: Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. On the way, Jesus told them,

Jesus: All of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.

Narrator: Peter said to him,

All: Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.

Jesus: I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.

Narrator: But Peter yelled,

All: (Say this like you mean it!) No! Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!

Narrator: And all the others vowed the same. They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said,

Jesus: Sit here while I go and pray.

Narrator: He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them,

Jesus: My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.

Narrator: He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by.

Jesus: Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.

Narrator: Then he returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter,

Jesus: Simon, are you asleep? Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

Narrator: Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before. When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. And they didn't know what to say. When he returned to them the third time, he said,

Jesus: Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!

Narrator: And immediately, even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal

All: You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss. Then you can take him away under guard.

Narrator: As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus and exclaimed,

All: Rabbi!

Narrator: And Judas kissed Jesus. Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear. Jesus asked them,

Jesus: Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there among you teaching every day. But these things are happening to fulfill what the Scriptures say about me.

Narrator: Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away. One young man following behind was clothed only in a long linen shirt. When the mob tried to grab him, he slipped out of his shirt and ran away naked. They took Jesus to the high priest's home where the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law had gathered. Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and went right into the high priest's courtyard. There he sat with the guards, warming himself by the fire. Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could put him to death. But they couldn't find any. Many false witnesses spoke against him, but they contradicted each other. Finally, some men stood up and gave this false testimony:

All: We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.'

Narrator: But even then they didn't get their stories straight! Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus,

All: Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?

Narrator: But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked him,

All: Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

Jesus: I am. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Narrator: Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said,

C: Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

Narrator: And they all cried out together,

All: Guilty! He deserves to die!

Narrator: Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. They jeered at him,

All: Prophecy to us!

Narrator: And the guards slapped him as they took him away. Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, Women: You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth.

Narrator: But Peter denied it.

Men: I don't know what you're talking about.

Narrator: And he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed. When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others,

Women: This man is definitely one of them!

Narrator: But Peter denied it again. A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said,

Women: You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean.

Narrator: But Peter swore,

Men: A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know this man you're talking about!

Narrator: And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he broke down and wept. Very early in the morning the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law—the entire high council—met to discuss their next step. They bound Jesus, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate asked Jesus,

All: Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus: You have said it. Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, and Pilate asked him,

All: Aren't you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?

Narrator: But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate's surprise. Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner—anyone the people requested. One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising. The crowd went to Pilate and asked him to release a prisoner as usual. Pilate asked:

Right Side: Would you like me to release to you this 'King of the Jews'?

Narrator: For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy... But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. Pilate asked them,

Right Side: Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?

Narrator: They shouted back,

Left Side: Crucify him!

Right Side: Why? What crime has he committed?

Narrator: But the mob roared even louder,

Left Side: Crucify him!

Narrator: So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified. The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters and called out the entire regiment. They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. Then they saluted him and taunted,

All: Hail! King of the Jews!

Narrator: And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified. A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.) And they brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, but he refused it. Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They divided his clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery.

Women: Ha! Look at you now! You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!

Narrator: The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus.

Men: He saved others but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!

Narrator: Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him. At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice,

Jesus: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Narrator: Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. But another said,

All: Wait! Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!

Narrator: Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed,

All: This man truly was the Son of God!

Narrator: Some women were there, watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph), and Salome. They had been followers of Jesus and had cared for him while he was in Galilee. Many other women who had come with him to Jerusalem were also there. This all happened on Friday, the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath. As evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea took a risk and went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. (Joseph was an honored member of the high council, and he was waiting

for the Kingdom of God to come.) Pilate couldn't believe that Jesus was already dead, so he called for the Roman officer and asked if he had died yet. The officer confirmed that Jesus was dead, so Pilate told Joseph he could have the body. Joseph bought a long sheet of linen cloth. Then he took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in the cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone in front of the entrance. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where Jesus' body was laid...

Silence for Meditation

“Lamb of God”

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958
Music: Twila Paris
Text and music © 1985 Strighway Music/Mountain Spring Music

Apostle's Creed

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 power of 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 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

Prayers of Intercession

R: Let us pray

Each petition ends with these words:

R: God of love,
All: Your will be done.

Peace

R: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you!

R: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

MEAL

Offering

“Stay with Me”

Jacques Berthier

Offering Response

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”



The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

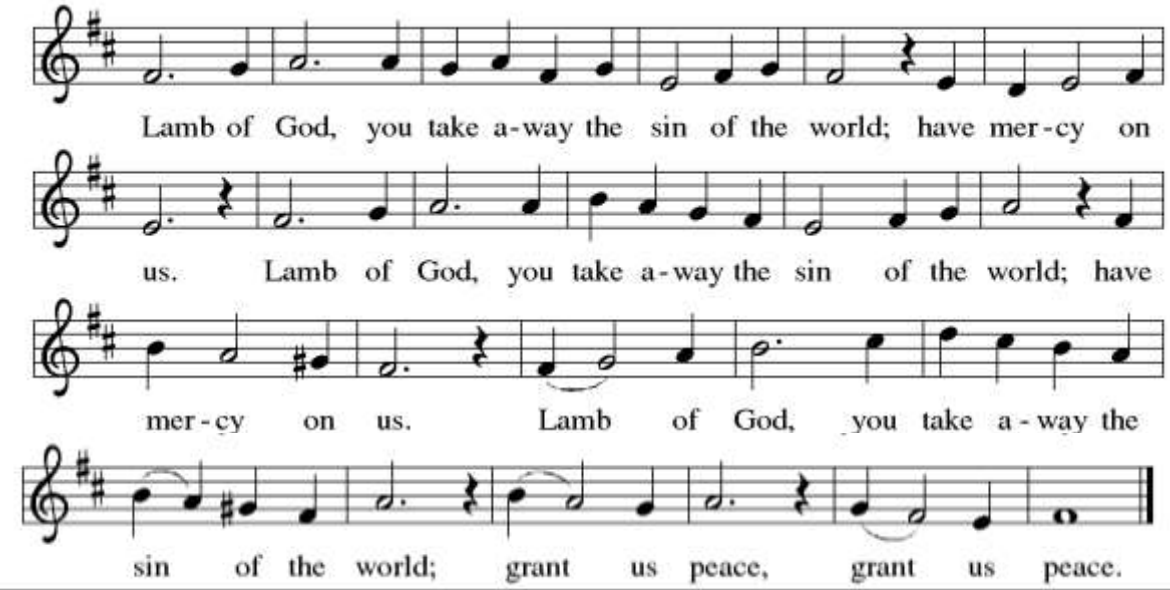
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion
P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion

Communion Music

“Lamb of God”



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

“Were You There”
African American Spiritual

Prayer after Communion
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep
you in God’s grace.
All: Amen.
P: Let us pray

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As
grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to
feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
All: Amen

Blessing
P: God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the
Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.
All: Amen.

Sending Song
“The Old Rugged Cross”

Words and Music by
George Bennard



1. On a hill far a-way stood an old rug-ged cross, the
2. O the old rug-ged cross, so de-spised by the world, has a
3. In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di-vine, a
4. To the old rug-ged cross I will ev-er be true; Its
em-blem of suf-f'ring and shame; And I love that old cross, where the
won-drous at-trac-tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His
won-drous beau-ty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Je-sus
shame and re-proach glad-ly bear. Then He'll call me some day to my
CHORUS
dear-est and best for a world of lost sin-ners was slain. So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged
glo-ry a-bove to bear it to dark Cal-va-ry.
suf-fered and died to par-don and sanc-ti-fy me.
home far a-way, where His glo-ry for-ev-er I'll share.
cross, till mytro-phies at last I lay down. I will cling to the old rug-ged cross, and ex-
change it some day for a crown.

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Dismissal

R: Go in peace. Serve in love.
All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“O Lamb of God You Bear the Sin of All the World”
Anne Krentz Organ

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Eric Brown, Dawn Grell, Michelle Klinger, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Shirley Graftaas, Betty Steinke, Michael Harting, Bob Cornelsen, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Harold & Sandy Julifs, Lila Edeus, and Berta Beyer.

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Greg Zeigler
Acolytes – *Volunteer Needed*
Greeters – Nancy Frank. Donna Kendall
Ushers – JoAnn & Ruben Garcia
Reader – JoAnn Garcia
Sound – Greg Zeigler

Musicians:

In person:
Julie Woessner
Sunday school children
Recorded:
Brian Lobdell
Josie Pink
Kerensa Pink
Gerad VonHolten
Dawn Zeigler

Worship Assistants

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday – 5:30 p.m.
Opener/Head Usher/Closer – *Volunteer needed*
Acolytes – *Volunteer needed*
Greeters/Ushers – Bill & Carolyn Duncan
Reader – Carolyn Duncan
Sound – Greg Zeigler

Good Friday supper:

Mosaccioli: Patty Arians
Stuffed Shells: Julie Woessner
French bread: David Carrillo
Debbie O’Brien
Gary Fields

Tossed Salad:
Greens: Cheryl Gorman
Duncans
Donna Kendall
Judy Bartel
Cherry tomatoes: Cheryl Gorman
Mary Ordean
Cheese: Cheryl Gorman
Duncans
Pepperoncini peppers: *Volunteer Needed*
Italian Salad Dressing: Hope Howell
Mary Ordean
Your choice Salad Dressing: *Volunteer Needed*
Sliced Kalamata or Black Olives: Mary Ordean

Desserts: Janie Billings
Mary Ordean
Beverly Julien
Volunteer Needed

Next week – March 31

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters – Bob & Judy Bartel

Ushers – John Renner, Dan Dir

Reader – Jim Gorman

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Coffee Fellowship – Dahleen Baptism Fellowship

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