

**Welcome to worship at
The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026**

*Hosanna
in the
Highest!*



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.

**Nicole Young, vicar
Patricia Nyce, director of music ministry
Lindsey Waltermyer, Grace band leader**

We love our neighbors with healing and feeding them!

**All worship can be viewed online at newhanoverlutheran.org
[facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch)
and on YouTube.**

**May your worship experience strengthen you
with God's love and grace.**

Welcome Statement

You are always welcome at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church. We are a growing community of believers in Jesus Christ, rooted in God's love and guided by Christ's example. We strive to reach out with compassion, offering a place where you can grow in faith, experience God's grace and feel safe and celebrated. At New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, we want you to gather with us at our table. Rooted in our Lutheran faith and belief that we are all children of God and made in God's image, we welcome all people with dignity and love.

In Romans 15:7, Paul writes, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

By this belief, we are committed to intentionally following Jesus' example of unconditional hospitality, love and justice. Here, you are not only included, you are respected. We affirm and value people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, cultures, ages, abilities, body sizes, relationship statuses and economic or immigration statuses. We are committed to the ongoing work toward racial equity and inclusion in all we do. You are invited to fully participate in our worship, sacraments, leadership positions, gatherings, and ministries. In our identities, we are united by the common faith we hold, and recognize we each offer unique gifts and perspectives. We believe that this transforms lives and deepens the faith of our community.

Christ's door is open to all, so is ours.

Organ Prelude

The Holy City

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Welcome and Announcements

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

Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.

Please rise as you are able. Please join in singing.

Children and Vicar process into sanctuary.

Processional

The Palms

O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festal preparation,
Where Jesus comes, to wipe our tears away;
E'en now the throng to welcome him prepare.

Chorus

Join all and sing, his name declare;
Let ev'ry voice resound with joyful acclamation. Hosanna!
Praise ye the Lord! Bless him who cometh to bring us salvation.

His word goes forth, and peoples by its might
Freedom regain once more from degradation;
Humanity doth give to each his right,
While those in darkness are restored to light.

Chorus

Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation
Thro' boundless love; the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith and hope to thee forever more.

Chorus

"The Palms" by Jean Baptiste Faure. © 1913 by Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Children and Vicar stay up front.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Palms

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

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.**

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

Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.

Gathering Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW #344

Please be seated.

J.A.M. Choir

Little Grey Donkey

Lindsey Waltermeyer, keyboard

Josh Young, percussion; Nancy Mest, flute

Women of the Chancel Choir

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Children's Message

Hayley Quigley

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Barbara Noecker

A reading from the book of Isaiah

⁴ The Lord God has given me
a trained tongue,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens,
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I did not turn backward.

⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷ The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a} It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 31:9-16

Barbara Noecker

⁹ Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰ **For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹ I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,
a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹² **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³ For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴ **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.
I have said, "You are my God.**

¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶ **Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”**

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ



“Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ” Harmony by the Rev. Andris Solims. Gregorian melody.

Passion of Our Lord According to St. Matthew

Matthew 26:14-27:66 (NLT)

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

Narrator (N): Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked,

Congregation (C): **How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?**

N: And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus. On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked,

C: **Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal for you?**

Jesus (J): *As you go into the city, you will see a certain man. Tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My time has come and I will eat the Passover meal with my disciples at your house.’*

N: So the disciples did as Jesus told them and prepared the Passover meal there. When it was evening, Jesus sat down at the table with the twelve disciples. While they were eating, he said

J: *I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me.*

N: Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn

Men: **Am I the one, Lord?**

Women: **Am I the one, Lord?**

J: *One of you who has just eaten from this bowl with me will betray 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!*

N: Judas, the one who would betray him, also asked

C: **Rabbi, am I the one?**

N: And Jesus told him

J: *You have said it.*

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

J: *Take this and eat it, for this is my body.*

N: And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said,

J: *Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many. Mark my words - I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom.*

(Our Passion Reading will pause here, and we will remember this important meal and partake in communion together)

Words of Institution

We use a combination of the accounts from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and First Corinthians as we witness to Christ's words and actions in the Last Supper.

In those final moments with his disciples, Jesus celebrated with them a meal, and gave to them a gift and a promise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

As we pause before hearing the account of Christ's ultimate love and sacrifice, we pause now to receive Christ in the bread and wine. Come, not because you are perfect, but because you are forgiven.

Communion

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Table, open to everyone. The usher will direct you when to come forward. Communion glasses are found on the stand at the front of the line to your right. Take an empty glass if you are choosing to commune with wine or a pre-filled glass (with grape juice) if you will be communing with grape juice. Receive your bread from the pastor, gluten-free bread from the plate, and the wine, or blessing over the grape juice from the lay assistant. There are two wine stations, so please, choose the open station. Persons not communing may receive a personal blessing (simply keep your hands down at your sides or folded across your heart).

The gifts of God, for the people of God. All of you are invited to this table of grace.

Lamb of God

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

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Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

Communion Songs

Hosanna

Praise Band

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O Come to the Altar

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Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

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 Passion Continues

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

J: *Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, “God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.” But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.*

N: Peter declared,

C: **Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.**

N: Jesus replied,

J: *I tell you the truth, Peter-- this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.*

N: But Peter insisted,

C: **No! Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!**

N: And all the other disciples vowed the same. Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said,

J: *Sit here while I go over there to pray.*

N: He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them,

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

N: He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying

J: *My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.*

N: Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter

J: *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!*

N: Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed,

J: *My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.*

N: When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. Then he came to the disciples and said,

J: *Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look-- 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!*

N: And 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 and elders of the people. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal:

C: **"You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss."**

N: So Judas came straight to Jesus.

C: **"Greetings, Rabbi!"**

N: He exclaimed and gave him the kiss. Jesus said,

J: *My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.*

N: 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.

J: *Put away your sword. Those who use the sword will die by the sword. Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?*

N: Then Jesus said to the crowd,

J: *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 teaching every day. But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures.*

N: At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled. Then the people who had arrested Jesus led him to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of religious law and the elders had gathered. Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and came to the high priest's courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end. Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death. But even though they found many who agreed to give false witness, they could not use anyone's testimony. Finally, two men came forward who declared,

C: **This man said, "I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days."**

N: Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus,

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

N: But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him,

C: **I demand in the name of the living God-- tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.**

N: Jesus replied:

J: *You have said it. And in the future 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.*

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

Men: **Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?**

Women: **Guilty! He deserves to die!**

N: Then they began to spit in Jesus' face and beat him with their fists. And some slapped him, jeering,

Men: **Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who hit you that time?**

N: Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him,

Women: **You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.**

N: But Peter denied it in front of everyone, saying:

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

N: Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around,

Women: **This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.**

N: Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath, saying:

Men: **I don't even know the man!**

N: A little later, some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said,

Women: You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.

N: Peter swore,

Men: **A curse on me if I'm lying-- I don't know the man!**

N: And immediately the rooster crowed. Suddenly Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly. Very early in the morning the leading priests and the elders of the people met again to lay plans for putting Jesus to death. Then they bound him, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor. When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders and declared:

Men: **I have sinned for I have betrayed an innocent man.**

Women: **"What do we care? That's your problem,"**

N: they retorted. Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself. The leading priests picked up the coins.

Women: **It wouldn't be right to put this money in the Temple treasury since it was payment for murder.**

N: After some discussion they finally decided to buy the potter's field, and they made it into a cemetery for foreigners. That is why the field is still called the Field of Blood. This fulfilled the prophesy of Jeremiah that says, "They took the thirty pieces of silver-- the price at which he was valued by the people of Israel, and purchased the potter's field, as the LORD directed." Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. He asked him,

C: **Are you the king of the Jews?**

J: *You have said it.*

N: But when the leading priests and the elders made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. Pilate demanded:

C: **Don't you hear all these charges they are bringing against you?**

N: But Jesus made no response to any of the charges, much to the governor's surprise. Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd-- anyone they wanted. This year there was a notorious prisoner, a

man named Barabbas. As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them:

Men: **Which one do you want me to release to you -- Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?**

N: (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy.) Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message:

Women: **Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night.**

N: Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. So the governor asked again,

Men: **Which of these two do you want me to release to you?**

N: The crowd shouted back,

Women: **Barabbas!**

N: Pilate responded,

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

N: They shouted back,

Women: **Crucify him!**

Men: **Why? What crime has he committed?**

N: asked Pilate. But the mob roared even louder,

C: **Crucify him!!**

N: Pilate saw that he wasn't getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Men: **I am innocent of this man's blood. The responsibility is yours!**

N: And all the people yelled back,

Women: **We will take responsibility for his death-- we and our children!**

N: So 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. Some of the governor's soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted,

C: **Hail! King of the Jews!**

N: And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified. Along the way, they came across a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. And they went out to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). The soldiers gave him wine mixed with bitter gall, but when he tasted it, he refused to drink it. After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. Then they sat around and kept guard as he hung there. A sign was fastened above Jesus' head, announcing the charge against him. It read: "This is Jesus, 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. They yelled at him:

Men: **Look at you now! You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuilt it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!**

N: The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus.

Women: **He saved others but he can't save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him! He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'**

N: Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way. At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice,

J: *Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*

N: Which means "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?" Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling out 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 the rest said,

C: **Wait! Let's see whether Elijah comes to save him!**

N: Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women, who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people. The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said,

C: **This man truly was the Son of God!**

N: And many women who had come from Galilee with Jesus to care for him were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James and Joseph), and the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee. As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left. Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb and watching. The next day, on the Sabbath, the leading priests and Pharisees went to see Pilate. They told him,

Women: **Sir, we remember what that deceiver once said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise from the dead.' So we request that you seal the tomb until the third day. This will prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he was raised from the dead! If that happens, we'll be worse off than we were at first.**

N: Pilate replied,

Men: **Take guards and secure it the best you can.**

N: So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it.

A moment of silence for reflection

Please rise as you are able.

Song of the Day

Lamb of God

Grace Band

Your only Son no sin to hide
 But You have sent Him from Your side
 To walk upon this guilty sod
 And to become the Lamb of God

Your gift of love they crucified
They laughed and scorned Him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God

Chorus:

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
O wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called the Lamb of God

Chorus 2x

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Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with your neighbors.

The people give a sign of peace to each other.

Please be seated.

Offering

Choir Anthem

Jesus, the King

Chancel Choir

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The offering will be taken at this time.

You can donate to NHELCC's ministry electronically.

Tithe.ly QR Code



Simply Giving QR Code



Please rise as you are able.

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

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.

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739. Text and music are in public domain.

The offering is brought forward for a blessing.

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

The King of Glory

Refrain
Em Bm⁷ Em

The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.

Em Bm⁷ Em

O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.

G C Bm/D D⁷ G

- 1 Who is the King of glo - ry; how shall we call him?
- 2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
- 3 Sing then of Da - vid's Son, our Sav - ior and broth - er;
- 4 He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion;
- 5 He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en,

Em CM⁷ G/B CM⁷ D⁷ G Refrain

He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of ag - es.
 he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
 in all of Gal - i - lee was nev - er an - oth - er.
 he took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion.
 and he will share with us his heav - en - ly vi - sion.

"The King of Glory" Text: Willard F. Jabusch. Music: Israeli traditional. Text © 1968, 1995 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Blessing

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. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Triumphal March

Humphrey Turner

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Announcements

Today

The bulletin is sponsored to the glory of God and in memory of her husband Fredrick by Jane Johnson.

The flowers are sponsored to the glory of God and in memory of all women who planted the seeds of love by Janet Psota.

The communion is sponsored to the glory of God and in memory of all the women throughout the world who committed their love to ALL by Janet Psota.

The majesty palms are presented to the glory of God by Altar Guild members Terry Santangelo and Debbie Solazzo in memory of Terry's husband Frank Santangelo and Debbie's mother Betty Seroski.

Would you like to sponsor the bulletin, flowers, communion or devotional? Sign up today by clicking on the link newhanoverlutheran.org/worship_signups_2026 or use this QR Code. Or, contact Church Office Manager Susan Gutshall at 610-326-1335.



Serving Today: Steve Weidner, head usher; Bill and Sharon Tracey, ushers; Barbara Noecker, lector; Hayley Quigley, children's sermon; Hannah Waltermeyer, acolyte; Debbie Solazzo and Leslie Gates, communion assistants

Maundy Thursday: Scott Geiser, head usher; Faye Weidner, usher; Genesis Garcia, lector; Rae Bechtel, acolyte; Donna Kehs, communion assistant

Good Friday: Marty Hauser, head usher; Steve Weidner, usher; Elsa Lucas and Ainsley Lucas, acolytes

Next Sunday: Todd Rothermel, head usher; Stacey Rothermel, Zach Quigley and Patrick Lucas, ushers; Kady Singley, lector; Dee Singley, children's sermon; Miller Quigley, acolyte; Erica Lucas and Carolyn Fleming, communion assistants

Altar Guild members who are serving this month: Nancy Gross, Sue Care and Kay Kurtz.

The Nursery room is located between the Welcome Center and the Fellowship Hall. Parents are welcome to use the room during worship as needed. The room provides for a comfortable play area in a joyful environment; toys and books are included. The room has access to a changing room and a private nursing room next door.

Doors leading to fellowship hall and the education wing remain locked during the worship service for the safety of all.

Have a pastoral emergency?

Contact Vicar Nikki Young at 267-329-9697.

This Week

Worship Service – Today, 9:00 AM, sanctuary and online

Food Drop Off – Today, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen

Food Delivery Pickup – Today, 10:00 AM, kitchen door

JAM – Today, 10:15 – 11:15 AM, room 21

JAM Choir Rehearsal – Today 11:00 – 11:15 AM, room 15

KFC Choir Rehearsal – Today, 11:00 – 11:20 AM

Praise Band Rehearsal – Today, 11:20 AM, sanctuary

Prayer Ministry – Monday, 1:15 PM, sanctuary

Cub Scout Pack 367 – Monday, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, rooms 1, 14, 27-34, 36-37

Scouts BSA Troop 367 – Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, room 1

Food Drop Off – Wednesday, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen

Food Delivery Pickup – Wednesday, 10:00 AM, kitchen door

Addiction 12 Step – Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, rooms 33-34

Chancel Choir – Wednesday, 6:30 – 7:45 PM, room 15

Property – Wednesday, 7:00 PM, room 37

Handbell Choir – Thursday, 6:15 – 7:00 PM, room 15

Addiction 12 Step – Thursday, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, rooms 33-34

Maundy Thursday Service – Thursday, 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service – Friday, 7:00 PM

Worship Service – Next Sunday, 9:00 AM, sanctuary and online

Food Drop Off – Next Sunday, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen

Food Delivery Pickup – Next Sunday, 10:00 AM, kitchen door

Praise Band Rehearsal – Next Sunday, 11:20 AM, sanctuary

Continue on your journey through Lent at NHELCL. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held this week at 7:00 PM. Easter service will be next Sunday at 9:00 AM. Invite your family and friends to worship with you here at NHELCL!

Upcoming Events

The NHELCL Book Club is reading *Maybe you Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb. Join the club for dinner and book discussion at the WQ Diner in Pottstown on Tuesday, April 7th, at 6:30 PM. Any questions about the book club, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com.

Join in the next God on Tap discussion on Thursday, April 9th, at Main Street Pub in Bally at 6:00 PM. **Please note the April date is changed to the 2nd Thursday due to Holy week.** The discussion subject will be: We know Jesus had to die and be resurrected to show us there is eternal life for those who follow him and his teachings. But, did all the brutal events of Holy Week need to happen? Of course, who are we to second guess God? But, if there is ONE thing you could change about Holy Week it would be _____? Want to join in the discussion? RSVP to Randy Dotterer by noon on April 9th either by text at 610-306-0621 or email at rdptw6489@gmail.com.

Garden of Hope We have BIG plans for the garden this year! We plan to allocate a couple rows of raised beds for our school children so they can experience God's work in action as they plants seeds, water them, and watch them grow. We're also adding a washbasin to make the cleaning of our harvested produce a little easier. Our new Lead Gardener Jim Mack and the Food Ministry are identifying more convenient ways to volunteer in the garden, so keep an eye out for more information on volunteer opportunities. Last year we produced 3 ¼ tons of organic

produce that we gave to local Food Banks. None of this is possible without the dedication and support of our congregation and our neighbor volunteers.

The Garden of Hope has set their Spring garden Preparation and Planting weekends. If you enjoy working with your hands, playing in dirt, or simply like the camaraderie of friends, come out and join us. The garden preparation date is **Saturday, April 11th, at 9:00 AM** and the garden's first planting is scheduled for **Saturday, April 18th, at 9:00 AM** (rain date April 25th). No experience necessary!

Feel free to reach out to Jim Mack at jimmack203@gmail.com or Steve Weidner at steveusamail@duck.com for more information.

The Boyertown Area Alumni Marching Unit will hold their 50th anniversary spring concert on Saturday, April 25th, at 2:00 PM at the Boyertown Senior High School Auditorium. Tickets are sold at Aunt Nannie's Bake Shop (913 Rte. 100, Bechtelsville) and Bachman's Music (38 S. Reading Ave., Boyertown). Adult tickets are \$10, student tickets are \$2 and under age six are free. For more information, visit the band's website at www.boyertownalumnimarchingunit.org.

Help Needed

Hams Needed The Food Ministry is looking for ham donations for Easter. Hams may be dropped off in the kitchen on Wednesdays and Sundays between 9:00 – 10:00 AM or stop by the office Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Boyertown Area Multi-Service NHELCC is collecting non-perishable items throughout the month of March to be distributed to our neighbors in local communities. For a list of suggested items most needed by the pantry, see the March issue of *New Hanover Highlights*.

Readers are needed for the April 3rd, Good Friday service. Sign up today on the sheet for readers located on the desk in the welcome center.

Want to be a member?

Fill out "Your Voice from the Pew" card, located in the pew rack and place the card in the offering plate. Check off "Interest in Church Membership."

Resources

Want to keep up with all the latest news from NHELCC? Subscribe to the bi-weekly Constant Contact communication emails. You will receive a weekly announcement on Monday and a worship reminder on Saturday. If you are not already receiving these emails, you can use this QR code and sign up today using a very simple, secure site.



Do you enjoy the praise band songs? Would you like to get to know them better? This [playlist](#) includes over fifty songs that our praise band has done, and more will be added in the future. You will need to download Spotify (it's free!) to listen to the songs.



Peer Support Information The Ferns Peer Run Respite is a local mental health non-profit resource in Montgomery County. The Ferns provides a supportive and calm environment for individuals in need and not able to interact in other available mental health

resources. The Ferns is totally peer-supported and allows individuals at the respite the time they may need to recover or seek additional treatment. If you know an individual who may need this service, contact Vicar Nikki Young.

The Peer Support Ministry webpage on the church's website (newhanoverlutheran.org) offers resources for mental health and wellness. Visit the webpage for information.

Mental Health and Wellness Millions of people across the nation are affected by mental health conditions. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has local centers in both Reading and Lansdale. They offer in-person and online support groups. NHELC has links with helpful information available on our website (newhanoverlutheran.org) or contact NAMI Helpline or PA Addiction Helpline directly.

NAMI Help Line 1-800-950-6242 is available Monday - Friday 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM ET.

Text "Helpline" to 62640 or if in crisis call or text 988.

PA Addiction Helpline 1-800-662-HELP (4357).

Online live chat offered at 1-717-216-0905 or text

You Can Help

Volunteers are needed to help during the church service: Ushers, Lectors, Children's Sermons, Acolytes and Communion Assistants. Contact Faye Weidner at omiweidner@gmail.com or 484-929-5958 if you can help.

Food Ministry

Over 300,000 meals have been distributed! NHELC's Loaves & Fishes Food Ministry is changing lives. And, you can be a part of the team. 1.) You can donate food. Drop off your donation on Wednesdays and Sundays between 9 – 10 AM. **Items most needed include: hamburger, chicken (thighs and breast meat), pasta (ziti, elbows, bowties), cheese (mozzarella, cheddar, parmesan), potatoes, fresh fruit (apples, oranges, bananas) and eggs.** 2.) Donate money through Thrivent Gift Cards. Place monetary donations on the offering plate or mail to the church. 3.) Deliver meals. Sign up at <https://www.newhanoverlutheran.org/loaves-fishes-food-ministry/>.

Reconciling in Christ Serving All and Loving Unconditionally

In case you want any information, enter this link in your web browser:
<https://newhanoverlutheran.org/reconciling-in-christ/> or connect using this QR Code.



Additional Information

Facility Use for Meetings or Events Requests All meeting and event requests by committees, members or non-members are to be communicated to the church office manager. The request will include the date and time, purpose, amount of people attending, necessary space and equipment of the meeting or event. Given the information the meeting or event will be posted on

the church calendar by the church office manager (only). Providing an announcement for the bulletin, newsletter or social media posting does not constitute a request or guarantee a space. There is a Facility Use policy, and fees do apply in some cases. In no case will fees be waived. Deposits are required to hold the space, date and time. If the meeting or event is not posted on the church calendar or you do not place a deposit if necessary, you do not have permission to use the space. Contact Susan Gutshall, church office manager at (610) 326-1335, or email her at susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org for requests or information.

Prayer Requests

Military: Shawn Dietz, Kevin Dugan, Jason Bernhard, Craig Geiser, Patrick Mathias, Steven Kane, William Zearfoss, Will Wilson V, Milton Jack Repa, Kyle Woods, Danny Foust

Peace for violence in our area and nationally

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Keeley Staples | Logan Conley | Katy Mahon-Miller |
| Luann Hanley | William Trotter | Kathy Kane |
| Maxwell Girard | Pat Fryer | Jean Renninger |
| Pr. Kork Moyer | Julia Hauck | Tony Mancini |
| Raul Castro | Amy LeVan | Jeffrey Kunsch |
| Wilma Lahr | Melissa | Mary Lou |
| Doug Weaver | Dorothy Bingaman | Emily Ocelus |
| Eric & Wendy Hess | Sue Care | Deb Matthews |
| Marceline | Anne Eshleman | Daniel Johnson |
| Chris Fatzinger | Pena family | Kim Frain |
| Jen Perez | Frank D. | Pam Helfrich |
| Barb & Tom Faust | Andy Van Dyke | Janet |
| Pam Abbott | Holli Muffler | Louise Karns |
| Pr. Jennifer Phelps | Verdie Smith | Helen Foulke |
| Carla Hausmann | Joan Price | Ralph Borneman |
| Lucille Powell | Joan Scheffey | Chuck Beck |
| Rich Freed | Joe | Joe |
| Casey Flack | Penny Frymoyer | David Helfrich, Sr. |
| Tara Hauck | Hazel LeVan | David Gottshall |
| Paul Knauer | Suzanne Dodge | Dave Pollock |
| Julia Ghazi | Ray Feick | Steve Morriss |
| Jennifer, Brendt, Declan & Conor Budnick | | Vicki Mutter |
| Carol Feick | Alice Nester | Linda Adams |
| Donna Day | John Sander, Candis Peto, Yvonne Peto | |
| Dennis and Sandy Rothermel | Janet Linskey | |
| James Dawson | | |

The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

2941 Lutheran Road
Gilbertsville, PA 19525
Office Hours: Mon. – Fri., 9 AM – 2 PM
Call 610-326-1335 for an appointment



Contact Information

Council

council@newhanoverlutheran.org

Staff

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nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org

Church Office Manager Susan Gutshall

susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org

Director of Music Ministry Patricia Nyce

patricia.nyce@newhanoverlutheran.org

Grace and KFC Band Director Lindsey Waltermeyer

goldielw@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director Barbara Eisenhart

eisenbarb@aol.com

Sexton Jen Boyer

jcboyer0408@gmail.com

Bookkeeper Dorothy Brower

bookkeeper@newhanoverlutheran.org

Cemetery Caretaker Norm Hunsberger

nhunsberger29@gmail.com

Ministries

Food Ministry Director Chris Fatzinger

Cfatzinger@chris-cooks.com

Sunshine Learning Center Educational Director Jena Marinelli

jena.marinelli@sunshinelc.org

Peer Support Recovery Ministry Team

peersupport@newhanoverlutheran.org

Do you see any palms in worship today?
Did you get to carry a palm?
On **Palm Sunday**, we celebrate **Jesus!**

Find and circle all 15 palm branches in this picture.

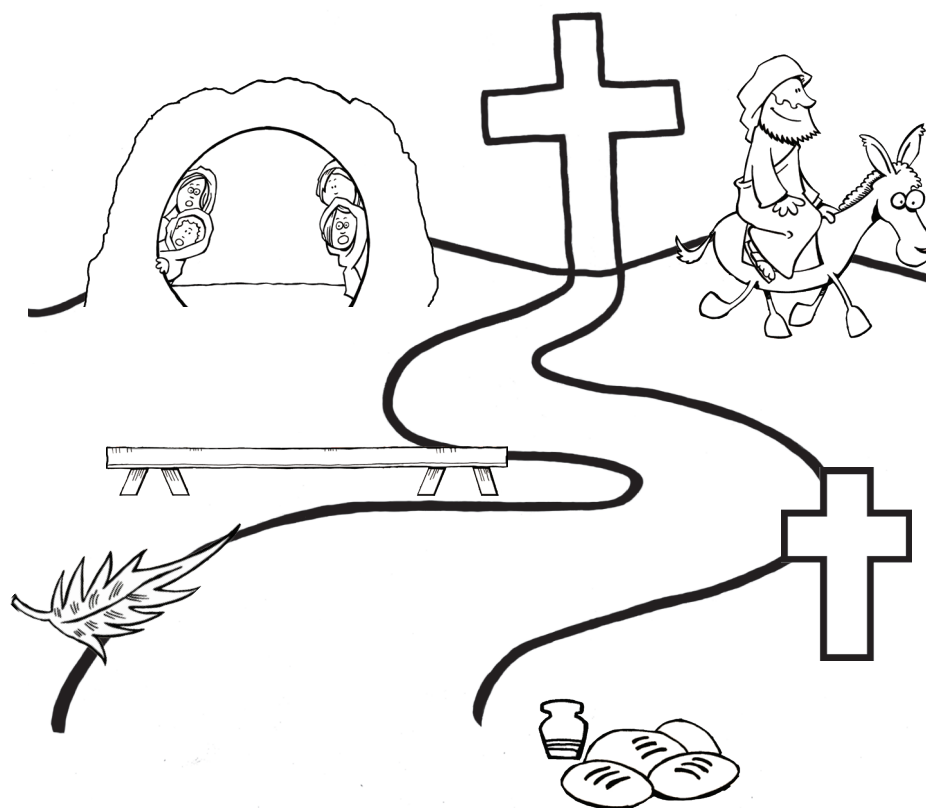


PRE-READER

Passion/Palm Sunday

- Palm Sunday is the first day of **Holy Week**.
- During Holy Week, we are both **happy** and **sad**.
- **God is with us** during Holy Week—and **always!**

Match each picture on the left of the path with a picture on the right.

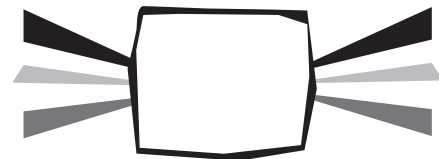




It was a sad and hard time for Jesus and his friends.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, he rode on a donkey.
People came out to celebrate.
A few days later, the people were angry.

Count how many people are celebrating Jesus' coming. Write the number in the box below.



Last Week, Last Words

What did Jesus do during the last week of his life? Listen to the Gospel reading during worship. While you listen, number the pictures in order.

Use the phrases to fill in captions.

Jesus ate. Jesus sang. Jesus prayed. Jesus was arrested.
 Jesus was asked many questions. Jesus was sentenced to die.
 Jesus was nailed to a cross. Jesus died. Jesus was buried.



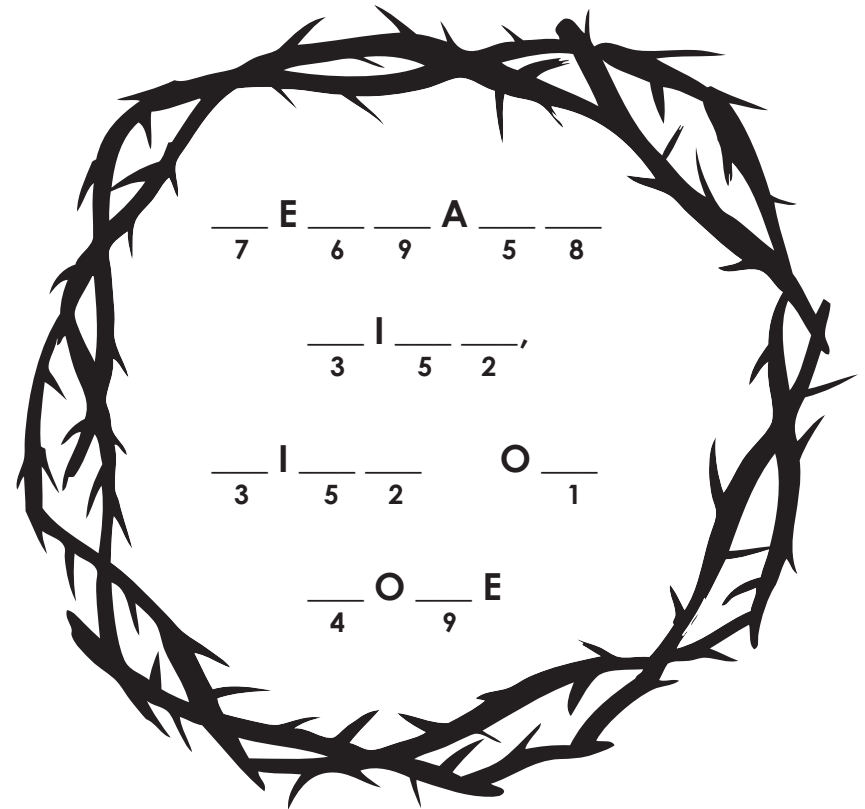
READER

Passion/Palm Sunday

- This is **Holy Week**.
- Holy Week was the **last week** of Jesus' life.
- During Holy Week, we **honor** Jesus and **mourn** his death.

Sometimes It Hurts

Solve the puzzle below to find out what kind of king Jesus was.

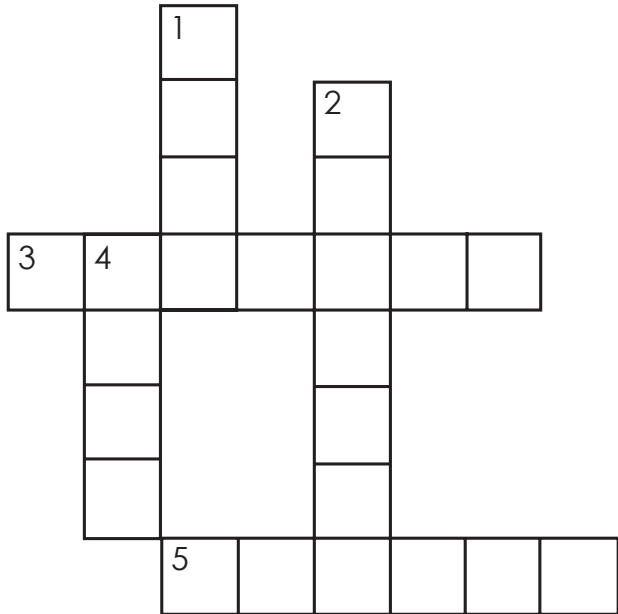


1=F 2=G 3=K 4=L 5=N 6=R 7=S 8=T 9=V

_____ is the one who comes in
 the _____ of the _____!
 _____ in the highest _____!
 Matthew 21:9



Use the clues below to fill in the crossword puzzle and the memory verse. If you get stuck, look up Matthew 21:9 for help.



ACROSS

- 3. Mary was _____ among women. Luke 1:42
- 5. When God began to create the _____s and the earth. Genesis 1:1

DOWN

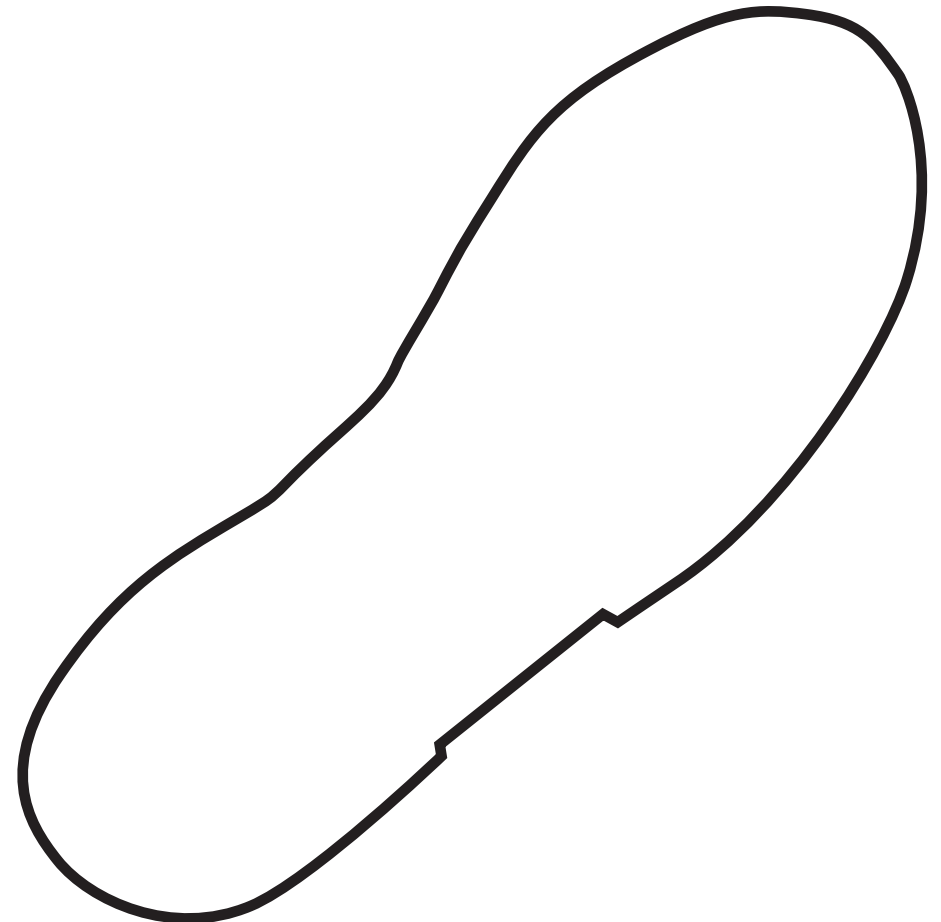
- 1. Adam gave one of these to all the animals: A _____. Genesis 2:20
- 2. People waved palms and shouted, "_____!" Mark 11:10
- 4. God is the _____ of lords. Deuteronomy 10:17

A Long Way to Go

On **Palm Sunday**, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem.
 On **Maundy Thursday**, Jesus gave the disciples bread and wine.
 On **Good Friday**, Jesus prayed in the garden. And Jesus died on the cross.
 But that was **not the end** of Jesus' journey!



Jesus walked a long way, telling people about God. Even when he died on the cross, it was not the end of his journey to share God's love with everyone. Use a pencil or crayon to make a rubbing of part of your shoe's sole to remind you of how far Jesus traveled.



Jesus cried out these words when he was dying on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" These are the first words of Psalm 22. Look it up to read the rest of the psalm.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re-deem-er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635. Text and music are in public domain.

Lamb Of God

Words and Music by
Twila Paris

VERSE

♩=52

C G C G/B Am Fmaj7 C/E

Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide; But You have sent Him from Your
Your gift of) love they cru - ci - fied; They laughed and scorned Him as He
I was so) lost I should have died; But You have brought me to Your

1

4 Gsus G G/F Am Fmaj7 C/E Am Fmaj7 C/G Gsus C G F

side, to walk up-on this guilt - y sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.
died. The hum - ble King they named a fraud, and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of
side to be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of

CHORUS

(1) | 2,3

9 C G C Am F G/F C/E C G/B

Your gift of God. Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God. I love the

13 Am Fmaj7 C/E Gsus G G/F Am Fmaj7 C/E Am Fmaj7

ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me in His pre - cious blood, my Je - sus

OUTRO

1 | 2

17 C/G Gsus C G F C G D.S. C/G Gsus C G F

Christ, the Lamb of God. I was so Christ, the Lamb of God.

22

C G F C

The musical notation consists of a single treble clef staff. It begins with a C chord (C4) above the first measure. The melody starts with a quarter note C4, followed by eighth notes D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, and C5. A second measure contains a G chord (G4) above the first note. The third measure contains an F chord (F4) above the first note. The fourth measure contains a C chord (C4) above the first note. The piece concludes with a double bar line.